

February 25, 2011

Office of General Counsel Federal Election Commission 999 E Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20463

I want to bring to your attention possible violations of federal election campaign laws by the lowa Faith & Freedom Coalition (IFFC), under the fiscal sponsorship of the Iowa Christian Allianae, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization. The participants in the IFFC's March 7, 2011 Presidential Foxum were not selected based on pre-established objective criteria. Specifically, I was excluded from the Presidential Forum based on the subjective prejudices of the IFFC's president, Mr. Steve Scheffler.

If the event were to be considered a debate under Federal Election Commission guidelines, then this Presidential Forum does not comply with the applicable laws. If it is not a debate, then the IFFC's sponsorship and financing of this Presidential Forum would violate the prohibition on corporate contributions.

I respectfully mk in Federal Election Commission to conduct a full investigation into the legality of the IFFC's Presidential Forum.

Complainant and Respondents

Complainant:

Fred Karger 1278 Glenneyre, #20 Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Respondents:

Steve Scheffler, President Morris Hurd, Tressurer Gopal Krishna, Board Member Iowa Faith & Freedom Coalition 939 Office Park Rd. – Suite 115 West Des Moines, IA 50265 515-225-1515 OFFICE OF GENERAL

2011 FEB 25 AM 11: 5 1

FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION



Iowa Faith & Freedom Coalition's Presidential Forum

Steve Scheffler is the President of the IFFC, whose fiscal sponsor is the Iowa Christian Allimaca, an organization exempt from transion under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. On December 29, 2010, Mr. Schaffber told the Wall Strest Journal that the WFFC would host the first forum of the 2012 Republican Presidential primary sonson. In the Journal story, Mr. Schaffler stated that "the group plans to send invitations put this week to anyone who has expressed the slightest interest in the 2012 Republican nomination" (Emphasis Added - Attachment 1).

In its press release, the IFFC describes the event as a "2012 Republican Presidential Candidates Meet and Greet Event." In the invitation to participants, the IFFC explains why it is importantly for prospective 2012 Presidential candidates to attend. "There will be no better emportantly to meet these voters this spring them the 2011 IFFC Spring Kick-Off. Come early and stay late to shake hands and to take to your percential vaters one on one before and after the program" (Attachment 2).

The IFFC invited Haley Barbour, Mitch Daniels, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, Mike Pence, Rick Santorum, Mitt Romney, John Thune, Gary Johnson, John Bolton, Buddy Roemer and Herman Cain (Attachment 3). I was not invited.

Certainly, I have expressed interest in running for the Republican nomination for President in 2012. The British newspaper The Observer stated in its February 13, 2011 profile of me that my "2012 presidential exploratory committee is perhaps the furthest advanced of any potential Republican candidate" (Attachment 9).

On April 10, 2010, I announced that I was seriously considering running for President at the Southern Republican Leadership Conference in New Orleans. I have visited Iowa six times and New Hampshire twelve times. On December 1, 2010, I was the first to hire an Iowa State Director. I was the first to hire staff in New Hampshire. And my Presidential Exploratory Committee was the first to produce and air commercials in both New Hampshire (September 2010) and Iowa (November 2010), asking my friends to help me decide whether to run for President.

The Washington Post sid its first 2012 Presidential caudidate profile on my possible candidacy. The Boston Globe has listed me as one of "the only two notables" of the 2012 season thus far. The Des Moines Register includes me regularly in its list of potential 2012 contenders. The New York Times, CBS News, Fox News, Politico, the Hill, the Concord Monitor, the Portsmouth Herald, the Los Angeles Times, the Daily Caller, the Atlantic, Greece's To Vima, the BBC's HARDtalk, Austrian Broadcasting Company, Brazil's R7, Hungary's FN and many others have reported on my emploratory campaign.

Federal Election Laws Concerning Candidate Appearances

Federal election campaign laws allow for an organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code to spensor a Presidential candidate meeting. Such a meeting is an exception to the definition of contribution. Applicable rules state that "The delatins must be structured such that they do not promote or seevance one candidate over another; and they must include at least two cambidates, meeting face to face" (Attentionent 5).

Additionally, "The organization staging the debate must select the candidates based on pre-established objective criteria" (Attachment 4). A qualified organization can devise its own objective criteria. Examples of pre-established objective criteria include:

- 1) Having filed an FEC Form F-2, Statement of Candidacy, with the Federal Election Commission;
- 2) Having a campaige office inside the State of Iowa;
- 3) Having employed at heart one full-time campaign staff representative.

Is Iowa Faith & Freedom Coalition's Presidential Forum a Debate?

Many Presidential debates are called forums but fulfill the broad Federal Election Commission definition of a debate because they satisfy the criteria of having at least two candidates meeting face to face. The staging of the upcoming IFFC Presidential Forum may well fall william the l'EC's broad definition of a debate.

An example of a forms that smeets the debate enteria comes from the 2008 Presidential Primary in Iowa. The AARP and Iowa Public Television hosted the "Divided We Fail" Democratic Presidential Forum in Davenport, Iowa on September 20, 2007. This Presidential Forum excluded Dennis Karcinich and Mike Gravel. When questioned, the 501(c)(4) staging organization, the AARP, was able to provide the media with the "presentablished objective criteria" used to select participants. These criteria were "the establishment of an Iowa campaign office and the employment of an Iowa campaign staff representative no later than August 1, 2007" (Attachment 7).

If the IEFC's Presidential Forum satisfies the definition, the Forum would violate federal election comparing laws because candidates were not chosen using "preestablished objective criteria" (Attachment 4).

When Sean Miller of The Hill asked Mr. Scheffler why I was excluded from the March 7, 2011 Forum, he stated, "Karger's focus on gay rights makes him a marginal candidate... He's got one issue and in my opinion that does not make him a serious or legitimate candidate" (Attachment 3).

While speaking before groups, at town hall meetings and in the media I have discussed dozens of issues (Attachment 13).

Even though we had never met, Mr. Scheffler threatened me in a personal email on May 25, 2010. The email said:

"You don't care about transparency—you and the radical homosexual community want to harass supporters of REAL marriage. I am the Republican National Committeenan for Iowa. As a private citizen and knowing titerally thousands of caucus goers, I will wark overtime to help ensure that your political aspirations are aborted right here in Iowa. Have you studied our past caucuses—you have NO chance here in Iowa!" Steve Scheffler (Attachment 6).

Rather than using "pre-established objective criteria," Mr. Scheffler has used his subjective beliefs to exclude me from the Presidential Forum. Thus, the Forum is not a legalfy constituted debate, and the sponsorship and financing of the event constitutes illegal contributions and expenditures.

Assume That the Forum is Not a Debate

The invitation to the IFFC's Presidential Forum states "It is not a debate... it will give presidential candidates ten minutes to make a pitch and present their vision as the voters of lowa begin the process of making their decisions for the first in the nation caucuses" (Attachment 2). If this Forum does not fulfill the FEC's debate definition, then the IFFC's sponsorship and financing of its Presidential Forum does not qualify for exemption from federal election campaign laws (see FEC AO 1986-37).

The IFFC's Possiciential Forum appears to be similar to the National Conservative Foundation's National Conservative Convention cited in Advisory Opinion 1986-37.

The IFFC's sponsorship and financing of its Presidential Forum constitutes contributions or expenditures within the meaning of 2 U.S.C. 441b because the format does not comply with the exemptions allowed for a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organization to host an appearance by candidates for a federal office.

Request for Investigation

I formally request a thorough and complete investigation into the IFFC's sponsorship and financing of its March 7, 2010 Presidential Forum.

I also ask the Commission to direct Mr. Scheffler to invite me to speak at the Presidential Forum.

Since the Presidential Forum is to be held on March 7, I respectfully request that the Commission expedite my complaint.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Fred Karger 1278 Glenneyre, #20 Laguna Beach, CA 92651



cc: Distribution

Attachment 1: Iowa Gets First Big 2012 Forum. So Who Will Show? http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2010/12/29/iowa-gets-first-big-2012-forum-so-who-will-show/

Attachment 2: <u>lowa Faith & Freedom Coalition Announces Presidential Forum</u> http://ffciowa.com/http://www.p2012.org/chrniowa/iffc010411pr.html

Attachment 3: A dozen GOP presidential prospects invited to March 7 Iowa forum

http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/01/04/a-dozen-gop-presidential-prospects-invited-to-march-7-iowa-forum/

Attachment 4: FEC Section 110.13

Attachment 5: Pg 84 of their Guidelines for Corporations and Labor Unions.

Attachment 6: Iowa GOP committeeman to gay candidate: I'll sink you

http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/05/27/iowa-gop-committeeman-to-gay-candidate-ill-sink-you/

Attachment 7: Debates are On, Debaters are Off: http://www.phs.org/ombudsman/2007/09/stebntes are on debaters are of.html

Attachment 8: Advisory Opinion 1986-37 The National Conservative Foundation pg 4.

Attachment 9: http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/feb/13/republicans-gay-rights-presidential-race

Attachment 10: Candidate Excluded from Iowa Debate http://www.muscatinejournal.com/news/local/article-8f7f9f42-a78c-586d-b727-97c13ee7e462.html

Attachment 11: Fred Karger Press:

The Washington Post http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2011/02/02/ST2011020203372. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2011/02/02/ST2011020203372. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2011/02/02/ST2011020203372. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2011/02/02/ST2011020203372. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2011/02/02/ST2011020203372. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2011/02/02/ST2011020203372. <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/pp-dyn/content/s

Boston Globe

http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2011/01/30/a change in political seasons for the gop/?page=full

The Des Moines Register

http://www.desmoinesregister_com/article/20101026/NEWS09/10260351/-1/go4Ajax/Potential-12-contenders-visiting-before-election

The New York Times, http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/11/24/gay-progressive-republican-on-air-in-iowa/

CBS News, http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544 162-20024469-503544.html

Fox News, http://politior.hlogs.foxnaws.com/2010/11/24/republicam-and-gay-rights-activist-gears-presidential-run

Politico, http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0211/49203.html or http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1110/45540.html

The Hill, http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/gop-presidential-primary/136745-potential-white-house-oandidate-says-path-blocked-by-discrimination-

The Concord Maritor, http://www.concordroonitor.com/blogentry/236297/karger-to-release-anti-ngm-ad

The Portsmouth Herald, http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20110125-NEWS-110129854

LA Times, http://articles.latimes.com/2011/jan/28/news/la-pn-republicans-2012-20110128

The Union-Leader

http://www.uniouleader.com/columns,aspx/Opinioo?chanuel=139832ee-97eb-4460-bf99-b71df3b7ffcc

The Daily Caller http://dailycaller.com/2011/02/16/gay-republican-mulls-presidential-bid/

The Atlantic, http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2010/08/fred-karger-the-gay-rights-bogeyman-of-the-gap-presidential-race/61279/

Sky News, <a href="http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/World-News/Republican-Candidates-Are-Lining-Up-For-Chance-To-Challenge-President-Obama-In-Coming-US-Elections/Article/ful 102315937205?lpos=World News First Home Article Teaser Re

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gion 0&lid=ARTICLE 15937205 Republican Candidates Are Lining Up For Chance To Challenge President Obama In Coming US Elections

The Observer, http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/feb/13/republicans-gay-rights-presidential-race

Hungary's FN.hu, http://www.fq.hu/kulfold/20101126/homoszexualis elnokjelolt indul amerikaban/

Attachment 11, February 20, 2011 Potential 2012 GOP candidates speak out on what should be done to those responsible for Wikileaks http://dailycaller.com/2010/12/03/potential-2012-gop-candidates-speak-out-on-what-should-be-done-to-those-responsible-for-wikileaks/#ixzz1EYL2GaiR

Attachment 12, Darámouth Students Protest NH Poll Limiting Voting Rights http://www.wmur.com/r/26908964/detail.html

Attachment 13, GOP Presidential Hopefuls Want New GOP Majority to Focus on Economy

http://www.sunshinestatenews.com/story/gop-presidential-hopefuls-want-new-gop-majoritý-focus-economy

Attachment 14, My first ad in Iowa: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXvZvewDWVM

Whither the Reasonable Republican? http://theulartmouth.com/2010/10/25/opiniou/nedule

Attachment 15, Fred Karger: An Apology Now Mike Huckabee
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/fred-karger/an-apology-now-mike-hucka b 788945.html

Attachment 16, WHO Radio 1040, Mickelson in the Morning, 8-18-2010 http://hw.libsyn.com/p/8/7/0/870df14a2cb40139/mickelson-2010-08-18.mp37sid=8f190aa5b9cad23a825276379a8a0f5c&l sid=20760&l eid=&f mid=1969855



THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL

William

DECEMBER 29, 2010, 4:54 PM ET

Iowa Gets First Big 2012 Forum. So Who Will Show?

Likely 2012 presidential candidates have been sniffing around lowa for months on book tours and under-the-radar speaking engagements. But now the entire field-all dozen or so possible GOP challengers-are being invited to a megachurch on the outskirts of Des Moines for a March 7th candidates' forum-the first of its kind for 2011.

And the question is: Who will be so bold as to come?

Steve Scheffler, president of the Iowa Faith & Freedom Coalition, says the group plans to send invitations out this week to anyone who has expressed the slightest interest in the 2012 Republican nomination. That means everyone from Sarah Palin and Newt Gingrich to Mitt Ramney, Tim Pawlenty and Rick Sontorum. Even Atlanta radio host Herman Cain will get an invitation.

"I'd think that theme potential candidates would like the charge to come have a dialogue with evangelical Christians," said.

Mr. Schaffler; one of the state's most prominent GOP organizers and a member of the Republican National Committee.

Normally, candidates would jump at the opportunity to address as many as 1,000 conservative activists in the state that holds the first big test of the presidential election.

But this cycle is already looking a little weird as challengers continue to stay mum over whether they will compete for the nomination or not. Many say they plan to keep coy until April or even later.

Attending a prominent candidate forum in lowa in early March could be the first overt step some of the challengers take toward a 2012 bid.

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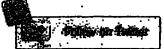
Legislative Newsletters

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Town Hall Meetings

VIDEOS

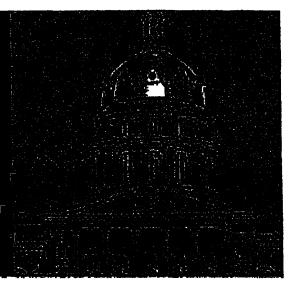




Let's Get lows Moving in the Right Direction

Soin the lows faith & Freedom Coalition as we are jee in the relie to talls back our state and country. If we hope to see our values represented in the public accordance in particles, those seems in the public of the same are relief.

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February 15, 2011 at 11:39 am

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lowa Faith & Freedom Spring Kick-off Event * Monday, March 7th; 5:30-7:30pm * Point of Grace Church in Waukee, IA (Click link for directions) * 305 NE Dartmoor Drive * Email Steve Scheffler slscheffler@ffciowa.com with questions or to RSVP.

January 4, 2011 at 12:45 pm

For Immediate Release Contact: Steve Scheffler 515-225-1515 January 3, 2011

West Des Moines - This weekend, the lowa Faith & Freedom Coalition sent out invitations to the top names being floated in the Bepublican primary for the 2012 presidential race. The group has planned a presidential forum for Monday, March 7th which is likely to be the first of its kind in the nation as the beginnings of a wide open presidential primary take form. Iowa Faith & Freedom Coalition President, Steve Scheffler states that the event will shape up to be the largest gathering of pro-family, values minded voters in the spring of 2011. "Candidates considering a run for president must take the Iowa Caucuses seriously and we are the caucus voters."

The letter sent to candidates reguls:

"The less Faith & Frestian Cualitian is the largest and the most influential group in lowa politics. In the past election cycle, we made well over 560,000 voter contacts through our VoterTrak program that allows us to identify and reach low propensity conservative noters. We worked hand-in-hand with eight state legislative candidates to put volunteers on the ground in the most competitive districts. Six of the eight will be sworn in as legislators this month. We published and distributed over 300,000 voter guides to churches all across the state to educate voters prior to the November 2nd election. The result was record progress in all three branches of lowa's government.

As an organization, we host two large events every year with our statusvide membership. On Monday, Martil 7th, 2011, from 5:30-7:30pm, we will be hosting our ennual Spring Kick-Off here in Des Moines as the 2012 presidential cycle begins. This year, the format of the event will be a 2012 Republican Presidential Candidates Meet and Greet Evant. It is not a diviate and there will be no Quantion and Answer time, but it will give presidential candidates ten minutes to make a pitch and present their winion as the waters of home begin the process of making their decisions for the first in the nation caucuses.

Last year, in a non-presidential cycle, we had nearly 500 people in attendance at this event, including many elected officials. This year, we expect to see a much larger crowd. This event is an important stop for candidates because over 60% of 2008 GOP caucus goers in lowa self identified themselves as evangelical Christians. There will be no better opportunity to meet these voters this spring than the 2011 IFFC Spring Kick-Off. Come early and stay late to shake hands and to talk to your potential voters one on one before and after the program."

Madia requesting credentials should email Gopal Kristina at gopal ristina@wabcorcom. Shooting of any type of video or taking any type of photographs of any part of the event will not be allowed without prior parmission from IFFC.

Iowa Faith & Freedom Coalition 939 Office Park Rd. - Suite 115 West Des Moines, IA 50265 515-225-1515

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A dozen GOP presidential prospects invited to March 7 lowa forum

3:45 PM, Jan 4, 2011 | by Tom Beaumont | 455 7 Comments

Categories: Iowa Politics Insider

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Iowa's Faith and Freedom Coalition, a leading social conservative group in the leadoff caucus state, has invited 12 Republican presidential prospects to what so far is the first group forum in the state of the 2012 campaign. The event is cet for March 7 at a church in a western Des Moines-area suburb.

The group, headed by Republican National Committee member Steve Scheffler of West Des Moines, sent invitations Dec. 31 to Minsissippi Gov. Haley Barbour, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, Texas Congressman Ron Paul, former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, Indiana Congressman Mike Pence, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, Souch Dakota Sen. John Thune.

Those 11 often appear on lists of GOP figures weighing 2012 bids. Another, a name increasingly popular in tea party circles, is Herman Cain, the former CEO of Gotifather's Pizza.

Former United Nations Ambassador John Bolton, who has said he is weighing a 2012 campaign, is expected to receive an invitation to the event, although Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition planners had not yet sent one.

The event, at Point of Grace church in Wanker, is being billed as the first such group gathering of 2012 prospects in Iowa, expected to host the leadoff presidential caucuses in a little more than a year. The forum is not a debate, but will afford prespective presidential candidates a chance to make a speech to conservative activists. There is no question and answer session plunned for those GOP hopefuls who attend.

Fred Karger, a gay-rights activist and veteran California-based political consultant, complained that he was not invited. Karger has visited Iowa five times, formed a presidential exploratory committee and hired an Iowa campaign staffer.

Scheffler said Kargor's focus on gay rights makes him a marginal candidate. In Iowa, social and evangelical conservatives fenn the core of the Ropublican caucus buse.

"He's got one issue and in my opinion that does not make him a serious or legitimate candidate," Scheffler said.

Tags: <u>Haley Barbour</u>, <u>Herman Cain</u>, <u>Iowa caucuses</u>, <u>Iowa Paith and Preedom</u>

<u>Coalition</u>, <u>John Bolton</u>, <u>Mike Huckabee</u>, <u>Mike Pence</u>, <u>Mitch Daniels</u>, <u>mitt romney</u>,

<u>Newt Gingrich</u>, <u>Rick Santonum</u>, <u>Ron Paul</u>, <u>Sarah Palin</u>, <u>Tim Pawlenty</u>

[Code of Federal Regulations]
[Title 11, Volume 1]
[Revised as of January 1, 2010]
From the U.B. Government Printing Office via GPO Access
[CITE: 11CFR110.13]

[Page 183-184]

TITLE 11--FEDERAL ELECTIONS

CHAPTER I--FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

PART 110_CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS AND PROHIBITIONS—Table of Contents

Sec. 110.13 Candidate debates.

有可能的影響所有的過去了多數的影響是對於不同時間,這個語言是

- (a) Staging organizations. (1) Nonprofit organizations described in 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(3) or (c)(4) and which do not endorse, support, or oppose political candidates or political parties may stage candidate debates in accordance with this section and 11 CFR 114.4(f).
- (2) Broadcasters (including a cable television operator, programmer or producer), bona fide newspapers, magazines and other periodical publications may stage candidate debates in accordance with this section and 11 CFR 114.4(f), provided that they are not owned or cantrolled by a political party, political committee or candidate. In addition, broadcastess (including a cable television operator, programmer or producer), bona fide newspapers, magazines and other periodical publications, acting as press entities, may also cover or carry candidate debates in accordance with 11

[[Page 194]]

CFR part 100, aulments B and C and part 100, subparts D and E.

- (b) Debate structure. The structure of debates staged in accordance with this section and 11 CFR 114.4(f) is left to the discretion of the staging organizations(s), provided that:
 - (1) Such debates include at least two candidates; and
- (2) The staging organization(s) does not structure the debates to promote or advance one candidate over another.
- (c) Criteria for candidate selection. For all debates, staging organization(s) must use pre-established objective criteria to determine which candidates may participate in a debate. For general election debates, staging organizations(s) shall not use nomination by a particular political party as the sole objective criterion to determine whether to include a sandidate in a debath. For debatee held prior to a primary election, caucus or convention, staging organizations may restrict candidate participation to candidates seeking the nomination of one party, and need not stage a debate for candidates seeking the nomination of any other political party or independent candidates.

[61 FR 16051, Apr. 24, 1995; 61 FR 24533, May 15, 1996, as amended at 67 FR 78681, Dec. 26, 2002]

Compositors and Labor Officializations anumy 2007

Officeholder/Professional Appearance at Corporation or Labor Organization

Under certain circumstances, a corporation or hibor organization may spenmer an appearance by a condition the general public. AOs 2004-14, 1929-2, 1996-11 and 1992-6. This type of appearance can occur under the following circumstances:

Speaker Net Appeating as Candidate

The speaker is NOT appearing in his capacity as a federal conditate but rather as a current federal officeholder or us a lecturer.

Issue Topics

The speaker may speak about issues of interest to the spensoring organization, including legislative issues, but must avoid reference to the campaign.

No Expuses Adeocacy

Neither the speaker nor the corporation or labor organization may expressly advocate the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate.

No Solicitation

Neither the speaker nor the corporation or labor organization may solicit contributions before, during or after the event

Similar Opportunity Mat Renaimed

Corporations and labor erganizations and ant provide other condidates with similar opportunities to speak because the speaker is appearing in his/her professional especity rather than as a condidate.

Proximity to Election Day

The appearance may occur at any time, even shortly before an election, because the speaker is not appearing to promote his/her candidacy.

Press Coverage

The speaker may participate in a press conference at or near the site of the event. The speaker may speak at the press conference regarding the issues discussed at the event under the following conditions:

- The spansoring organization may identify—but may not use the press conference to endouse—the speaker as a candidate.
- Neither the speaker nor the sponsoring organization may expressly advocate the election or defeat of any candidate during the press conference.
- The disburgements for the press conference music be de minimis. They means that

the sponsoring organization may contact only those news organizations it customerily contacts when solding press conferences for other purposes.

Payment of Travel Expenses

The sponsoring organization may pay the speaker's travel expenses as long as no part of the his/her trip is campaign related. If any campaign-related activity is conducted at a stop, the entire stop is campaign related and travel expenses cannot be paid by the sponsoring organization. AO 1996-11.

Public Debates

Sponsorship

Candidate debates may be sponsored by a broad-caster, a bona fide newspaper, a magazine or other periodical publication, or a tax-exempt nonprofit organization (a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organization) that neither supports nor opposes any candidate or party. 110.13(a) and 114.4(1)(2).

Corporate Donations

A corporation or labor organization may donate funds to a tax-exempt nonprofit organization (a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) arganization) that neither supports nor opposes any candidate or party to defray the cost of staging a candidate debate. I 14.4(f)(1) and (3).

Debate Structure

The debates must be structured such that they do not promote or advance one candidate over another; and they must include at least two candidates, meeting face to face. I 10.13(b).

Candidate Selection

The organization staying the debate must select the candidates based on pre-ustablished objective criteria. For primery elections, the organization may restrict candidates to those seeking the nomination of one party. For general elections, the staging organization may not use mombutton by a particular party as the sple subjective enterior. I 10.1 ii.

⁶ In AO 1996-11, the corporation sponstring the appearances of two officeholders' who were quieting for re-elession could not pay the officeholders' traval expenses because the prganization had knowledge that the officeholders' campaigns were planning campaign-related events at the site of the appearance. Payment of their travel expenses would have constituted a prohibited corporate contribution.





INspired

LYTHER COLLEGE

Iowa GOP committeeman to gay candidate: I'll sink you

2:49 PM, May 27, 2010 | by Jason Clayworth | 1884 13 Commerts

Categories: Iowa Politics Insider

Iowa's Republican National Committeeman sent an e-mail this week to a gay member of his party who is considering a run for president and told him he would work overtime to ensure that his eampaign aspirations are aborted.

"You and the radical homosexual community want to harass supporters of REAL marriage,"
Steve Schefflor wrote in an e-mail to Fred Karger, a longtime civil rights advocate in California who is gay and has announced he is running for president. "... I will work overtime to help ensure that your political aspirations are aborted right here in Iowa."



Fred Karger

Karger, the founder of Californians Against Hate, said he is shocked that one of Iowa's highest-ranking members of his party would express such disdain.

"The fact that he made such hateful comments, I think is very offensive," Karger said. "I certainly think he cares me an applogy."

The e-mail sent to Karger was in response to a message by Californians Against Hate that outlined how hisine officials had omired the National Organization for Marriage to turn over the names of its donors in a recent state election. The group, better known as NOM, opposes equal marriage rights for same sex couples.

The original message from Karger's group praised "truth and transparency in politics."

Scheffler acknowledged today that he wente the e-mail but said he makes no apologies.

"I'm not going to get involved in the presidential caucuses but I'm going to call a spade a spade," Schaffler said today. "When you have somebody who is this fare nut of the mainstraum of the political party, I'm just going to tell them what I think."

One Iowa, the state's largest civil rights group for gay and lesbians, said the situation demonstrates intolerance within the Republican Party.

"The Iowa Republican party wants to portray themselves as a big tent party, but when it comes right dewn to it lenders libra Solutifler have shown little tolescape for these with different views," said Cartdyn Janison, the executive director of One Iowa. "They've increasingly tried to purge their party of pro-equality Republicans like Karger and former Lt. Gov. Joy Corning, This goes beyond marriage, this is about excluding people from the political process."

Steve Roberts, a past Republican national committeeman from Iowa, said there are no rules that mandate that committee representatives remain neutral among GOP candidates. Nonetheless, the general feeling is that they do remain neutral, he said.

Roberts said he made similar comments to Karges that his campaign would be a long-shot in Iowa but did it tactfully and did not threaten to work against him.

"I think everybody that wants to porticipate should probably have the opportunity," Roberts said.

Matt Strawn, chairman of the Republican Party of Iowa, did not return a phone call about Scheffler's e-mail. Danielle Plogmann, Communications Director for the Republican Party of Iowa, said Strawn was out of the office Thursday and that this issue is not one that he wants to comment upon.

Norm Sterzembach, executive director of the Depresentatic Party of Iowa, reduced if anyona from the state's Republican Party has "the moral compass to disavow these comments?"

"It's embarrassing that someone like Scheffler is claiming to represent Iowa and it's unfortunate that Karger is trying to belong to a party that will never accept him," Sterzenbach said. "Iowa is a progressive and tolerant state and it's disgraceful to the people of Iowa to claim they would support Scheffler's kind of intolerance."

Here's Schrifter's e-mail to Karger as sent from his BlackBerry.

You don't care about transparency—you and the radical homosexual community want to harass supporters of REAL marriage. I am the Republican National Committeeman for Iowa. As a private citizen and knowing literally thousands of caucus goers, I will work overtime to help ensure that your political aspirations are aborted right here in Iowa. Have you studied our past caucuses—you have NO chance here in Iowa!

Tags: Carolyn Jenison, Fred Karger, joy corning, Norm Sterzenbach, One Iowa, Republican Party of Iowa, Steve Scheffler

the Ombudsman Column

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What is all stinguishing there is a present plant to the institute; believe is a province of any plant is a stabilished by ARCE and special plants with the institute; believe it stilled in the exclusion of the participant plants in the participant of the parti

When I asked PBS about this struction, here is now they responded: "As part of our commitment to providing after which cap public with access to information about the supcoming fresidential effection; the and lower public relevision are providing severage of The Candidates 2005; the bemocrats on Health Care and Financial Seculity. We will cover a significant featuring Republican candidates in October.

This forum was organized by Aries which decided upon the tribents for periodophion which included the demonstration of campaign activities in Iowa as measured by two conditions, the establishment of an Iowa campaign office and the employment of an Iowa campaign office and the employment of an Iowa campaign stall representative to later than August 1, 2007. The AARP has confirmed that all candidates were informed of the criteria. Iowa Public Televiside is provided that all candidates were informed of the criteria.

When I ked Dan Miller generalizatinger of IPTV, whether they objected to these criteria, knowing it would risk out these two candidates; Miller said IPTV did not know that at the time; "We had no like a twould exclude them. We felt these were fall and objective measures that were very easy to meet. An office and a staffer is not a very ligh har to meet. It desire take much." These requirement were so up in late June and early said; he explained, and candestes were informed in a letter on ruly 2. Miller said there have been recent discussions with AAPP but that letter on July 2. Miller sald there have been recent discussions with AARP but that ther stayed with the established criteria because they were easy, fair and objective, established at least some minimum test of interest in Iowa, which is the first-in-the-nation caucus state, and that changing them action last minute could present legal challenges

The AARF requirements do, indeed, see in minimal and basy to meet, and Miller's explanations stand reasonable levertheless, given the cast of characters that the

December 2014 Niver has 2014 October 2014 Sentanber 201 Chyposio Apinizoico Strambar on l Arter on l In 700 The 2005 May2009 CA YASTEZOO MIEGIZOO

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iforulation Be to be any heroes here? grequirement, as all the ... For AARP not to settants, thre, or for PBS, once it is get the regulrements. You tan a

in of Kucinich, who is a: ich, he says, has 'a \$4' jorit: insurance je artiele posted on , congressman also (ook)

The Issue Is particular strong admired Front In the Issue Is particular strong admired Front In the Issue Is he PBS-aired debate : jentiál cándidates haye in scheduled All: ally black Morgan State red nationally on PBS: is moderated by 188 reporters, and 18 reporters, and 18 reporters, and 18 reporters a similar debates of the control of the co panel of minority rs. This forum follows washington, D.C., in which the entire:Deinie

Although this situa received consideral providing early so Wednesday, Algilijo backlash that equit voters. The delisie of commentation

Ascording to the Pos Massachusetts in and Sen. John Me

Kansas Ri GOP candidates who Sam Brownback, 191 Hunter, Terus Rep

The Post reportusive that it is the property of the Post reportusive that the decision to hippass the Median State for the compassion of the sandidate save McCain deciling and attached the save most watched his panit decision with a save most watched his panit decision metwork in the United States had event was eventually postporing.

eventually postponed.

"We sound like we don't want immigration; we sound like we don't want black people to vote for us, said former congressing datic kemp (N/), who was the GOP vice preside datic highline in 1995. "What pre we applied the model in a country club in the side day? It we redoing to be competitive with people of color, we've got to ask their for their voice."

"For Remidicalisto consistently refuse to engage in front of an African American of Latino and ence is an enormous error," former thouse speaking them Gingrich (Ga.) told the Post. "Lyope they will reverse their desistant and charge their stiedules. It see no excuse — this thing has been planned for righting these candidates have known about it for months. It's just handamentally wrong. Any of them who give you that scheduling conflict answer are distinguishing that's beloney."

As for Scilley, Remote the melitaper: "Minduyon recovery black invitation and every basing to half on the serve, is that a scientific process to the unitable and the serve basing to half or serve and the serve an they think along America wellive in

My Two Cents

I don't know what the political calculations are going into decisions such as these for those GOP cangidates who decided they could not take part. But it seems to me that from the perspective of the citizen and voter, that this is not a good or healthy thing to do. Whatever one thinks of the quality of these debates, especially oras that have a restrictive subject focus, the format arranged by Smiley is Imaginative and surely there is room for it in a country as diverse as ours where minority issues. too often are mix focused upon in debates with a national audience.

SUBMITE VOUR COMMENT.
Have a comment related to the journalistic integrity of Pas Send an E-mail to / Icos or contact him at 703 / 7 The ombudsinan rose so viewers on a contact and one

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION Washington, DC 20463

November 10, 1986

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

ADVISORY DPINION 1986-37

J. Curtis Herge, Esquire Herge, Sparks, Christopher & Biondi 8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 200 McLean, VA 22102

Dear Mr. Herge:

This responds to your letter of September 23, 1986, on behalf of the National Conservative Foundation, requesting an advisory opinion concerning application of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), and Commission regulations to the financing and sponsorship of a convention that will include a nonpartisan candidate debate. ¹

You state that the National Conservative Foundation ("the Foundation") was organized under the Virginia Norstock Corporation Act on June 13, 1978; John T. Dolan was the incurporator. The Foundation is an organization exempt from Federal toxation under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3). Section 501(c)(3) grants tax-exempt status to corporations and foundations organized and operated exclusively for religious, chanitable, or educational purposes (among others) and "which does not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campuign on behalf of any candidate for public office." 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3). This statutory prohibition is also contained in the Foundation's articles of incorporation. These articles also state that the Foundation's corporate purposes include the sponsorship of public discussion groups, panels, lectures, and forums in which members of the public, governmental leaders, and others participate and exchange views on public issues and the political structure of the United States.



You have incorporated by reference documents you submitted with respect to Advisory Opinion 1925-26. These dominants include the Foundation's articles of innorporation, its by-laws, and the letter from the Internal Revenue Service granting the Foundation tax-exempt status under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3).

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You further note that the Foundation "has not established a political committee, or separate segregated fund, and it does not support, endowe or oppose political candidates or political parties." The Foundation has no monthors, and its uffices are located at 1001 Fringe Start, Alexandria, Virginia. Its efficant are John T. Dolan (circleman of the board and president), Mainelle Shortley (viae president), and L. Brent Bozell, III (secontary and transmetr). You note that Mr. Dolan is also chairman of the National Conservative Political Action Committee ("NCPAC"), which has registered with the Commission as a nonconnected political committee.

You state that the Foundation plans to organize and sponsor a nonpartisan forum, to be known as the National Conservative Convention ("the convention"). Members of the general public, governmental leaders, and others will be invited to participate in the convention for the purpose of identifying, discussing, and adopting positions on various foreign and domestic public policy issues. The convention will be held over a three-day period in mid-1987. During the convention, attended will limit to suff quantum both technical appears and generalization on foreign and domestic public policy issues. The convention will include speeches, workshops, hearings, and seminars. You state that the convention is to be both an educational forum, in which the individual participants may learn and formulate their own conclusions about various public policy issues, and a forum in which they make their individual and collective views on such issues public. You add that the purposes of the convention are intended to have no direct relationship to, or bearing upon, the 1988 presidential nomination or election process, which will include the separate, independent development of party committee platforms by separate bedies of delegates.

As past of the servention agarda, the Foundation plants to include a series of separate addresses to the assembled attendees by those individuals who, at the time the convention is held, are candidates or possible candidates for President of the United States in the 1988 presidential election cycle. This series of separate addresses will be structured and presented as a nonpartisan candidate debate, and will be staged as follows:

- (1) The Foundation will invite every individual affiliated with the two major political parties who is or may be a candidate for nomination for President. The criteria for determining which individuals are invited to participate in this debute are (1) whether the individual has registered a principal campaign committee with the Commission with respect to the 1988 presidential election or (ii) whether the individual has publicly announced the formation of an explanatory or testing-the-waters committee.²
- (2) Each invitee will be allowed to speak to the assembled attendees at the convention for 20 minutes on a topic or topics of his or her selection. At the end of this address, there will be a 15-minute question and answer session with questions being atked by attendees from the

² You note is your request that former governor Pierra Bu Pont FV has amistrand a principal campaign cannanttee with the Commission and that Vice President George Bush, former senator Howard Baker, and the Rev. Pat Robertson have publicly announced the formation of exploratory or testing-the-waters committees. Thus, there is a reasonable expectation that your proposed candidate debate will include at least two candidates under this criteria.

³ You state that each candidate will be asked to notify the Foundation in advance of the convention of the title of his or her address so that it may be included in the convention program.

convention floor. There will be a moderator who will not comment on the questions or otherwise make comments that imply approval or disapproval of any of these invitees.

- (3) Each invitee will deliver his or her address from the podium on the dais on the convention floor. Specific portions of the convention agends will be set eaide for these addresses so that each invites will be given a comparable time for his or her address, such as 10 a.m., 2 p.m., or 4 p.m. Candidates or potential candidates who participate in this debate will also not be scheduled as huncheon or dinner speakers or speakers at the public policy workshops, hearings, and seminars that make up the convention agenda. You also state that the setting for the debate will not promote or advance one candidate over another, and that each candidate will have an opportunity to make his or her presentation in a neutral, fair, and impartial manner.
- (4) The Foundation will not pay any honorarium to any candidate or potential candidate who participates in the debate or pay such candidate or his or her accompanying staff for transportation, travel, and holging expanses.
- (5) The Foundation will not permit the convention attendees to engage in any public demonstration or display on the convention floor in support of or opposition to any candidate. The Foundation will also not permit any solicitation of funds or contributions for any candidate or candidate's committee. You further assure that the Foundation will not sponsor, co-sponsor, or have any monetary or other involvement with any activities havelving any candidate or political committee before, during, or after the convention.

You ask these questions:

- (1) Will the sponsorship and financing of a National Conservative Convention by the Foundation constitute contributions and expenditures under 2 U.S.C. 441b?
- (2) Will the proposed appearances by presidential candidates constitute a nonpartisan candidate debate under 11 CFR 110.13 and 114.4(e)?
- (3) May presidential candidates who participate in the debate be identified as candidates in their introductions and in the convention fittenture?
- (4) May contributions to defray the cost of the convention be accepted from corporations, government contractors, foreign nationals, and individuals without regard to 2 U.S.C. 441a, 441b, 441c, and 441e?
 - (5) Are there any additional requirements with respect to the convention?

The Act prohibits a corporation, including a nonprofit corporation, from making contributions or expenditures in connection with a Federal election. 2 U.S.C. 441b(a). This prohibition includes both direct and indirect payments or gifts of money, services, or anything of value to a candidata. 2 U.S.C. 441b(h)(2). The Act, housever, permits a corporation to enablish and administer and to solicit voluntary contributions to a separate segregated fund to be utilized

⁴ See also 2 U.S.C. 441a(a); 441c; and 44ie.

for political purposes. 2 U.S.C. 441b(b)(2)(C); 11 CFR 114.5. Commission regulations also permit a corporation to use its treasury funds to sponsor and finance campaign-related appearances by candidates in limited circumstances and before cortain, defined groups of persons. Sur 11 CFR 114.3 and 114.4.

You have presented the public appearances of presidential candidates at the Foundation's proposed convention as a magnatinan candidate debate. Commission regulations specifically provide that a qualified nonprofit corporation's sponsorabip and financing of such debates is within the exemptions to the Act's prohibition on corporate contributions and expenditures. See 11 CFR 110.13 and 114.4(e). The regulations further state that the structure of candidate debates is left to the discretion of the staging organization provided that the debates include at least two candidates and are nonpartisan in that they do not promote or advance one candidate over another. f1 CFR 110.13(b).

The Commission notes that your proposed candidate debate features individual appearances by each of the candidates at separate times over the course of the convention rather than concurrent, face-to-face appearances. Such face-to-face appearances or confrontations have historically been an inherent characteristic of candidate debates since the prototypical Lincoln-Douglas Debates in 1858 and, more recently, the presidential debates in 1960, 1976, 1980, and 1984. Although the format and structure of these debates varied from one instance to another, the common element in all of them was a face-to-face confrontation. The Commission's nonpartisus candidate debate regulations were drafted with this historical, traditional concept of candidate debates in mind. Accordingly, the Commission does not view your proposed candidate appropriate as candidate debate.

Thus, your description of these candidate appearances presents the broader question whether the Foundation's proposed sponsorship of, and proposed means of financing, the convention will constitute contributions or expenditures in connection with a Federal election. See 2 U.S.C. 441b. As the Commission stated in Advisory Opinion 1986-26, it has addressed, in a variety of circumstances, whether or not the sponsorship of public appearances by individuals who are cardidates for Federal office were campaign related. The Commission has taken the position that public appearances by candidates at such events as charinable functions, public affairs programs, constituent service activities, and testimonials, or as part of their private employment will, accordinates, be sumparing related if pain events include any expense advocates of the election or defent of any candidate on the solicitation of contributions to any candidate as political constituent. The Commission has also concluded that the absence of expense advocates or solicitations will not practure a determination that public appearances by candidates are campaign related. See opinions cited at page 6 of Advisory Opinion 1986-26 (Advisory Opinions 1984-13, 1982-16, 1981-37, 1980-89, 1980-22, 1980-16, 1978-4, and 1977-42).

You intend to invite individuals associated with the two major political parties to address the convention and to answer questions their the floor of the convention. You plan to invite these

⁵ See generally, <u>The Past and Future of Presidential Debates</u> (A. Ranney ed. 1979) at pp. 1-50. The cited article, by Evron M. Kirkpatrick, deals primarily with the 1960 debates, but it also refers to the Dewey-Stassen debate in the 1948 Oregon primary, eige Suntames-Kenarum debate in the 1956 Elemits primary, and the Kannaky-Plumphaey debate in the 1960 West Virginia primary as foretunaters of present-day presidential debates.

individuals on the basis of their candidacy or potential candidacy for the Presidency in 1988, in that you will invite all individuals associated with the two major parties who have either registered a principal campaign committee with the Commission or have publicly announced the formation of an exploratory committee with papert to the 1988 presidential permination on election. Your characterization of these apparament as a sandidate debate further indicates that their appearances are ralated to the 1988 presidential campaign. The tandidates will be altimed to address the convention on any topic or topics of their own choosing and, presumably, may discuss or advocate their own candidacy as part of their remarks. Your question whether these candidates may be identified as candidates in their introductions and in the convention literature also implies that the appearances are intended to be campaign related. In these respects, your proposed activity is similar to that addressed in Advisory Opinion 1984-13 and leads to the similar conclusion that our proposed candidate appearances will be campaign related.

-1

This conclusion is not altered by the Faundation's intention that it will not parmit public demonstrations from the floor of the convention to support or oppose any candidate and will not permit any express advocacy of the election or defeat of any candidate or the subcitation of contributions to any candidate or candidate's committee. It is also not altered by the Foundation's promise that it will not pay any honoraxium to any candidate or will not reimburse any candidate or accompanying staff for transportation, travel, and lodging expenses, and will not engage in any activities with any candidate or political committee before, during, or after the convention. The Commission notes that similar factors were also absent in Advisory Opinion 1984-13.

Accordingly, the Foundation's encurrental and firemaing of the convention will constitute contributions or expanditures within the meaning of 2 U.S.C. 441b and, thus, will be prohibited unless specifically exempted by the Act and regulations. Commission regulations permit a corporation, including a nonpublic corporation, to sponsor either partisan or nonpursion candidate appearances before the specified groups but not before the general public. See 11 CFR 114.3(c)(2) and 114.4(a)(2). The Foundation has no members and plans for the convention to be open to the general public rather than limited to the specified groups for either partisan or nonpartisan candidate appearances. Therefore, these exemptions are not applicable to the Foundation's proposed convention. As discussed above, the proposed activity also does not qualify for the nonpartisan candidate debute exemption. Since the Foundation many not use its own funds to defray the costs of the convention, the Commission need not much any quasticus requaling the somes of the Foundation's funds.

The Commission emphasizes that it does not purport to express any opinion with respect to the Foundation's qualifications for tax-exempt status under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) or any other tax ramifications, since such questions are outside its jurisdiction.

Your situation differs from that in Advisory Opinion 1954-13 in that the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization whereas the requisitor in Advisory Opinion 1964-13 was a trade accuration. In addition, you have cited Revenue Ruling 86-95, 1986-32 I.R.B. 4, in support of your position. This revenue ruling, which concluded that a proposed public forum featuring Federal candidates would meet the nonpartisan test for 501(c)(3) organizations, dealt with only the specific factual situation addressed in the ruling. Furthermore, the recognition of a special status for 501(c)(3) organizations in Commission regulations does not extend to sponsoring and financing campaign-related public appearances by candidates other than under the nonpartisan candidate debate regulations.

This response constitutes an advisory opinion concerning application of the Act, or regulations prescribed by the Commission, to the specific transaction or activity set forth in your request. See 2 U.S.C. 437f.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

Joan D. Aikens Chairman for the Federal Election Commission

Enclosures (AOs 1986-26 and 1984-13)

Gay rights champion aims to become Republican presidential candidate

Fred Karger has already launched a campaign for the nomination in the key states of lowa and New Hampshire

Paul Harris New York
The Observer, Sanday 13 February 2011

A house | constant



Fred Karger, a gay candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, campaigns at a town hall meeting in Keene, New Hampshire Photograph: Matthew Cavanaugh

Fred Karger walked into a coffee shop in Manhattan looking every inch the sort of man who wants to be a Republican presidential candidate.

The long-time "Grand Old Party" operative, who has served three different Republican presidents; had close-exepped grey hair and wore a sharp blue business sait. He clutched a folder of campaign literature and handed suit a T-shirt emblazoned with "Iowa 2012". But one key detail made Karger a little different in a Republican field swirling with names like Jeb Bush, Mitt Romney, Sarah Falin and Mike Huckabee. On blu suit lapel Karger were a badge pairing the Stars and Stripes with the rainbow colours of the gay rights movement.

Karger, 61, whose 2012 presidential exploratory committee is perhaps the furthest advanced of any potential Republican candidate, is openly gay. When he officially declares his run, he will not only be the first gay Republican presidential candidate but also the first such candidate from any political party in American history. "I am a fighter and I am trying to change the Republican party and to open it up to everybody. If every gay person left the Republican party and went to the Democrats, that would be stupid. I believe in smaller federal government and personal responsibility just like my hero, Ronald Reagan," Karger said over a chicken salad andwich and a colu.

There is no doubting Karger's Republican credentials. He has spent his life working for the party's cause as a top strategist. Like <u>Karl Rove</u>, he was a disciple of the controversial Republican tactician Lee Atwater. Indeed, Karger played a key role in publicising the "Willie Horton" adverts that destroyed the Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis in 1988. Horton was a jailed murderer let out on a Dukakis-backed weekend release programme in Massachusetts who committed armed robbery, assault

(B)

and cape while at large. Karger toured the country with relatives of Horton's victims, and rape while at large. Karger toured the country with relatives of Horton's victims, and rape while at large. He does not regret it for a moment. "No, not in the least," he said with a smile.

But there is, obviously, doubt over Karger's chances in a field likely to be dominated by people with higher name recognition who are heterosexuals in a party with a dominant social conservative wing. Yet Karger is already at work in lowa and New Hampshire, fine key first states in the nomination process. He has visited lowa live times and New Hampshire at times in the peat past. He has ined aired TV advents (time only production candidate to do st.) and held tones init meetings, attential volunteens and even hired staff.

He is bluntly honest about the fact that he is a virtual unknown. His campaign slogan adorning the T-shirts, badges and frisbees he gives out asks: "Fred who?" Yet it's a strategy that has earned him a wave of positive press coverage, including a profile in the Washington Post. Karger knows that winning the 2012 Republican nomination as a proud proclaimed gay man is a long shot. But getting in the televised candidate debates might not be. By the spring he will probably have a ground operation, a needia presence, campaign funds in the bank, a staff and a handquarters. That will nikes Kanger to put gay rights, including gay marriage, sat the table in a party that usually somments itself with blustly dismissing them. To say the least, it will make interesting viewing and unsettle the big names. "I will take the gloves off if necessary," he said. He believes his campaign can raise \$5m.

Single coming out summal years ago, Kangge has been a vacal exceptigner for any rights and a high-purille orbit of organisations, especially the Mormon church, that oppose gay marriage.

Perhaps, then, it is no wonder the Republican establishment is trying its best to exclude him. Last week's meeting of the influential Conservative Political Action Committee in Washington did not invite Karger to speak, though Karger used the snub to generate media attention to his cause. "I cannot help but think that I have been excluded orighy because I happen to be gay... I am not some two-headed monster. I want to squash the anti-gay rhetoric," he said.

Dualing his things to I town and him? Hampshitz; of cen aparaling in gay sincent groups, Karger matical that he was getting a let of massle from young gay people saying his ambitions had belied their lines where they faced prejudice and bullying. Karger remembered feeling isolated when he was closeted for most of his life and does not want charts to go through that experience. Having an openly gay man run for that passidancy is vital, he believes, arom if he fails.

He says the symbolism of paving the way is important, just like it has been with pioneering but ultimately unsuccessful women such as Hillary Clinton and black candidates like the Rev Jesse Jackson. Somewhere in America, Karger hopes, a young gay persue will see his ten and tlink: I can do that, too, one day. "I am doing this for younger people," says Karger. "I am fine now. I am happy in my skin. But when I was growing up it was hell. I don't want anyone to go through that. That is what motivates me to make my voice heard. No more Mr Nice Gay."

The following correction was printed in the Observer's For the record column, Sunday
 February 2011. We described Fred Karger as the first gay presidential candidate,
 overlooking Joan Jett Blakk who ran in 1992 and 1996 on the Queer Nation party ticket.

#12

Home / Muscatine, Iowa News: The Muscatine Journal / Local

Candidate excluded from Iowa debate: Muscatine-based Iowans for Tax Relief and the Iowa Christian Alliance group blocks candidate from presidential forum

- Story
- Discussion

Candidate excluded from Iowa debate: Muscatine-based Iowans for Tax Relief and the Iowa Christian Alliance group blocks candidate from presidential forum

By Jennifer Meyer of the Muscatine Journal The Muscatine Journal | Posted: Thursday, June 21, 2007 12:00 am | (0) Comments

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MUSCATINE, lowa – Texas congressman Ron Paul's campaign said Tuesday that a Muscatine-based tax relief group has excluded the presidential candidate from participating in its June 30 forum in Des Moines.

Campaign cheirman Kent Snyder said the GOP candidate learned Tuesday he was not and wouldn't be invited to participate in the forum hosted by lowans for Tax Relief and the lowa Christian Alliance.

"If they didn't call us — some of our supporters — we probably wouldn't have known anything," Snyder said Wednesday.

According to the Web site for lowans for Tax Relief, candidates who will take part in the forum include Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback, California Sen. Duncan Hunter, former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee, former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, Colorado congressman Tom Tancredo and former Wisconsin governor Tommy Thompson.

Snyder said Paul's campaign manager Lew Moore contacted lowans for Tax Relief's executive vice president, Ed Failor Jr. of Muscatige, on Tuesday to see whether the campaign had misplaced or overlooked an invitation.

"To our shock, Mr. Failor told us Dr. Paul was not invited; he was not going to be invited; and he would not be allowed to participate. And when asked why, Mr. Failor refused to explain. The call ended," Snyder wrote in a post on Paul's campaign Web site.

Failor could not be reached by the Muscatine Journal Wednesday for comment, and a message left at

his office was not immediately returned.

Failor told WHO newsradio in Des Moines on Wednesdey that several other candidates were not invited to the forum, and decisions on who could attend were made months ago by drawing a "line of credibility." The interview with Failor and Snyder can be found online at http://www.mickelson.libsyn.com/ and clicking the "Wednesday June 20 2007" link. The interview begins at at 1:01:16.

Snyder said that even if he accepts Failor's reasoning, "the political landscape has changed. Dr. Paul is much more popular now that he ever was."

A Gallup poll on June 18 showed Paul with 2 percent of the vote, putting him on par with Tommy Thompson, Hunter and Brownback but trailing five other candidates. Former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani led Republicans with 28 percent, followed respectively by actor Fred Thompson, Arizona Sen. John McCain, Romney and Newt Gingrich.

Snyder said Paul has experienced a surge in Web-based popularity, on sites such as MySpace and YouTube.

He said Paul has a strong record of voting for tax relief measures and pro-life, both of which are sure to be issues at the forum given its sponsor organizations.

Paul visited fowa once last winter, Snyder said, and is "making a sincere, serious effort to take part in the straw poli."

Contact Jennifer Meyer at 563-262-6525 or jennifer.meyer@muscatinejournal.com.

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Posted in Local on Thursday, June 21, 2007 12:00 am Updated: 3:38 pm.

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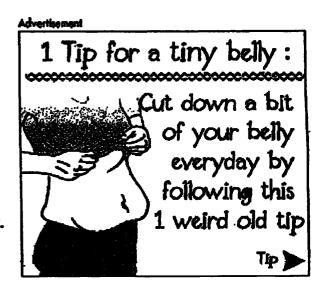
Crashing the party: Republican strategist turned gay rights activist ponders a White House run

By Dan Zak Washington Post Staff Writer Wednesday, February 2, 2011; 12:31 PM

ON ROUTE 202, N.H. — The candidate can't find his lane. The road is a crunchy carpet of snow. The candidate drifts too far to the right. The rumble strip rattles his car. The candidate drifts too far to the left.

"I can't tell where — " he says, equinting into the saviding waid.

"We're in the middle of the mad," says his research assistant calmly.



The car stereo belts the Act 1 finale from the Broadway musical "Wicked," which is about the Wicked Witch of the West and how she chose Evil to get ahead but then chose Good because that's how all fables end.

The candidate — the man behind the wheel, the man who can't find his lane — is a guy named Fred. He's exploring the possibility of running for president of the United States.

He is doing this as an opticity gay Republican winn's sorter held elective office, using money he amassed as a conservative consultant who helpeti to pedo Michael Dukalin with the Willie Horton ads in 1988 and worked for the tobacco industry to stave off smoking bans in California in the '90s.

Fred Karger, 61, is a nice guy.

He wants his country to see that. He wants young gay people to see him run for president. He'd be the first-ever openly gay presidential candidate for a major party if he formally declares. He can see himself as the moderate voice in a debate crowded with hard-liners.

He has visited New Hampshire racre than any other presidential prospector in this young election cycle. This skiddy late-night rich from a gathering is Keone to his Command lately in part of his I like this to the tests in the past year. He's singulariting amound, hosting tiny town halls, collecting volunteers one by one and arranging coffee dates with policy experts, academics and state politicians.

This is not a stunt, Fred insists.

A vital and misleading amendment to the American dream is "Anyone Can Grow Up to Be President."

The reality, of course, is that anyone can run for president. Initially, it costs \$0, plus the time required to file with the Federal Election Commission. The list of 2008 presidential candidates is 366 people long. It includes Hillary Rodham Clinton (Democratic Party), who's followed by Temperance Alesha Lance-Council (party: Unknown); Rudolph W. Giuliani is just ahead of His Royal Majesty Cacaar St. Augustine de Buenaparte, who, according to news clippings, declared himself emperor of the United States in 1996.

But to *become* president, one needs money (Barack Obama raised over half a billion dollars) and mantras ("change," "hope," etc.) and the media (your message here).

.

And stickers featuring his slightly airbrushed face. Fred has retirement money, which he's burning at a rate of between \$20,000 and \$30,000 a month on his almost-campaign. And T-shirts featuring a New Hampshire license plate that reads "FRED WHO?" And customized plus that cross the American flag with the rainbow one.

And Fred has pizza. Where there is pizza, there are college students.

He draws 25 of them to a basement meeting room at the University of New Hampshire in Durham last Tuesday, and about a dozen Decimenth Celloge Republicans to a conformer room in Hanover the following night. His tortoiseshell glasses, gray wool suits and previous acting experience might win him a walk-on part as John Skettery's olden brothen an "Mad Men." He runs through his biography, outlines his rickety platform (a 28th amendment to lower the voting age, education reform to make school "more interesting") and compares himself to Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress, who ran for president in 1972.

Chitholm: Obama:: Fred: The first openity gay president of the United States.

"I know this sounds arazy," he acknowledges to the students, who negard him with armied eyebrows and the occasional nod. "Why am I here?"

Recause the GOP needs a pro-choice, antiwar, freedom-for-all, spendthrift compromiser inspired by Nelson Rockefeller and Teddy Roosevelt, he says.

The actual delivery of this message isn't as clean. His stump speech is more of a meander that always boomerangs back to his rethrement hobby: crusading against Prop 8, the Mormon Church and the National Organization for Marriage.

The students wine show up for Fruit mean mostnigic form big-tunt GOP they larven't experienced in their lifetimes. But the tent Fred imaginus may be a little too hig.

"I think he's a fascinating candidate," says Dartmouth senior Katie Pine, 21, a government major who stopped by the Hanover event because she wonders where all the moderates have gone. "He's charming and charismatic, but he sounds like a Democrat to me."

"I consider myself a moderate like my boss and mentor, Ronald Reagan," Fred is fond of saying. "You're never going to agree 100 percent with any candidate. I'm more toward the center, and New Hampshire is a centrist state."

It also rewards long-shot candidates who log miles and shake hands. <u>Jimmy Carter</u>, a virtual unknown before the 1976 campaign, turned New Hampshire into a languing pad with a "Jimmy Who?" strategy. Pat Burchanen, who'd never been elected to public office, was the paintary in 1996. John McCain and Hillary Cliaton, hampswed by catablishment baggage, staged comebacks here in 2008 by dropping their guards and reveling in retail politics.

That's what Fred is doing. His goal is to get into a debate and nudge the GOP's conversation, like <u>Rep. Ron Paul</u>
(R-Tex.) did in 2008. He wants to make other candidates answer for their statements (or lack thereof) on gay rights. He wants to crash the party.

* * *

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On April 10, 1972, Fred gankard a security budge, talkard life way anto the Deputhy Chamiles Pavilion in Los Angeles and walked on appear with a herd of celebrities to salute Charlie Chaplin. Fred stood between Raquel Welch and Ann-Margret as the silent film star received an honorary Oscar.

Typical Fred. Fred likes a challenge, and the spotlight. He likes to find a way around the word "no," to network above his paygrade. As a high schooler growing up in Glencoe, Ill., Fred would dress up, take the train into Chicago, waltz into formal banquets and enjoy a fancy meal as if he belonged.

"He loved to be the center of attuntion, but also the engineer behind the scenes," says his good friend Gary Wolfson,

whin attended high school and the University of Denver with Fred. "He always tells people he was a class clowing tells which will be always tells people he was a class clowing tells always tells people he was a class clowing tells always tells people he was a class clowing tells always tells people he was a class clowing tells always tells people he was a class clowing tells always tells people he was a class clowing tells always tells people he was a class clowing tells always tells people he was a class clowing tells always tells people he was a class clowing tells always tells people he was a class clowing tells always tells people he was a class clowing tells always tells people he was a class clowing tells always tells people he was a class clowing tells always tells people he was a class clowing tells always tells people he was a class clowing tells always tells always tells people he was a class clowing tells always tell

He wasn't a standout student or athlete, but his Eddie Haskell nature was a fit for politics. He phone-banked for Nelson Rockefelter's 1964 presidential campaign and worked for Charles Percy's 1966 and 1972 Senate campaigns. Intent on cloaking his sexuality from his Chicago life, he bought a red Cougar convertible at age 23 and drove it to Los Angeles under the guise of becoming an actor.

In a span of three years, he was a passenger in "Airport 1975" and a model for an Edge shaving cream commercial directed by Jajim Hughaa, ami he was a meaning rate on a "Welcome Rack, Kotier" spinaff that never aired.

His heart was in politics, though, and he got a foot in the door at the Dolphin Group, a feared and revered consulting firm for conservative candidates and causes. For 27 years he specialized in opposition research, digging up unsavory facts that could sink opponents and sway public opinion. He worked on Reagan's '80 and '84 campaigns alongside firebrand Lee Atwater. He toured the relatives of William Horton's victims around the country in '88 to spin an exaggrated narrative about Dukakis's stance on crime. Fred fought anti-smoking ordinances for big tobacco in the '90s by peddling polling data that was criticized by some elected officials and academics for being unsciontific and decentive.

"Fred doesn't smoke, but he would show up at these Philip Morris-related events with a fake cigarette in his mouth, kind of tongue-and-cheek, keeping a sense of humor," says Nicholas Thimmesch II, a senior writer in the Reagan administration and longtime Washington media consultant. "He may not even have thought smoking was a good thing, but he did believe Philip Morris had a legitimate gripe against ridiculous tobacco lawsuits and restaurant smoking bans. I think Fred embraces freedom, and that goes for the freedom to be married."

But he led a double life for decades: Suwey, straight-usting suntagist at work, gay man who had long-term relationships and wrote checks to LGBT causes at lance.

"It was hell," Find says. "I was an unuamfortable and so mantions. . . . I would go to gay pride paradus and always hok for nameras, and hide in the background. I had a fit if my picture was taken."

These two lives didn't unite until a couple of years after he retired at age 53. He wanted to "give back" and do something "significant," so in 2006 he organized a local coalition to save a historic gav bar near his residence in Laguna Beach, Calif. In 2008 he formed the nonprofit Californians Against Hate to battle <u>Proposition 8</u>, the state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. He used his opposition-research skills to <u>launch a boycott of San Diego hotelier Doug Manchester</u> and <u>shame the Mormon Church</u> for funneling cash to advance Prop 8.

"Freel in his fiber understands coalition building and learnage," says Rick Incohs, chairman of the Canrage Campaigu, an aquality advocacy organization in California. "One of the reasons I think his presidential conditions is a little less than quixotic is because he's so facused, so good at getting his musaage out... If you mix together same one who really knows politics and has a point to make, and someone who's a relentless optimist, how do you dismiss that?"

During the Prop 8 fight, he divined the ultimate party crash, the splashiest way to make a point, the biggest idea of all: a run at the White House. He crashed the Southern Republican Leadership Conference in April to announce the possibility of his candidacy. In July he incorporated his exploratory committee and started meeting with the leadership of any LGBT, Democratic or Republican organization who would see him.

"This is unmhanted territory," says R. Clarks Cusper, executive discour of the Log Cabin Republicans. "From a historic standardient, you shall look at his cardidacy as a builging of different generations. . . . Maybe his more presence will tone down potential thetenie. It's very difficult for someone to talk negatively about another person or cutity if they're in the room."

But Fred is most comfortable when there's an enemy to fight. For years, the opposition was his candidate's challenger or his client's economic foe. These days, his chosen nemesis is <u>Brian Brown</u>, executive director for the National Organization for Marriage, which is pushing for a repeal of New Hampshire's same-sex marriage bill now that the state house has a Republican supermajority.

The timing is perfect, Escal says if the repeal effort will likely crescendo as 2014 turns to 2012. By the head like and state issues as his own: He's keeping tabs on businesses affected by the planned glosure of the Sagamore Bridge in Portsmouth, and last week he released a commercial warning the state of NOM's repeal tactics.

"History has proven that time spent here equals primary votes," says New Hampshire strategist Mike Dennehy, John McCain's national political director in '08. "With the exception of <u>Mitt Rommey</u>, <u>Sarah Padin</u> and <u>Newt Gingrich</u>, most of the pussible consideres have next to no name recognition in the state and are starting at about the same level [as Fred]. . . . There are significant amount of center and left-of-center lampablicans have who I think would be open to a candidacy like Ered's."

There is one small problem. When people ask Fred how he'd balance the budget, he smiles and steers the subject back to gay marriage and NOM and the Mormons. When people ask him how he'd fix health care, he says "I still need to look into it." There is something refreshing — if entirely unpresidential — about his in-progress grasp of issues. After a lifetime of faking it, he's finally not.

It's for votees to judge the merits of his gambit, to determine if it's worthy of the presidential nominating process, or if it's merely the brilliant tactic of a seasoned operative who's fixated on a single issue rather than a whole country.

* * *

I really think of him as a Republican Harvey Milk. He's very funny and very smart and has a great ability to connect with all kinds of people. . . . There's not the slightest possibility that Fred Karger is going to become president, but if he could be part of that dialogue — I see real value in that.

- Cleve Jones, gay rights activist

A total farce . . . unconstructive . . . unstrategic . . . self-absorbed . . . a fantasy . . . neither thoughtful nor conservative . . . We don't want to be special. And Fred's campaign is calling attention to the fact that he's special.

— a sampling of how some representatives of gay rights organizations describe Karger's presidential ambitions

* * *

In 45 hours he's hit two college campuses, a Mexican nestaurant in Keene, a radio station in Manchester and Portsmouth's Golden Egg diner, where candidates of yore have poured coffee to demonstrate their folksiness. Under a leaden sky frozen by single-digit temperatures, Fred zips around in a slush-spattered Lincoln Navigator, passing homes crowned with icicles, trailing a red rolling duffle bag full of frisbees and T-shirts.

He's shadowed by his full-time research assistant, 27-year-old Los Angelos rasidant Kavio Miniter, who was captivated by the notion of transpartisanship, which allows a politicien to revere the Clintone (Fred was a mexed-out Hillary donor in 2008), espouse the word "progressive," vote for Ralph Nader in 2004 (to protest George W. Bush) and 2008 (to protest Obama), and still call himself a Republican.

"I remember thinking This is genius,' and I immediately got what he's trying to do: He wants to change the political dialogue," says Miniter, who met Fred last year at a fundament.

The country keeps time by its principles cantrints. In the midterm elections in November, 31 percent of self-identified gays and lesbians voted Republican, up from 24 percent in 2006. Forty-two percent of all voters in New Hampshire are "underland," or independent. These are the people Find's counting on, the people who show up to his events.

"The Republican Party has gotta be tweaked," says retiree and independent Kevin Healy at a Portsmouth gathering hosted by a friend of Fred's. "They need to focus on issues, not ideology. . . . [Fred is] kind of an equivalent to a Mama Grizzly. He's a Grizzly Gay."

At the Golden Egg, retired accountants Sheldon and Doreen Kaplan praise Fred's sentiment but remain suspicious of

"We're the people in the middle no one cares about," says Sheldon, a Clinton Democrat who voted for <u>Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.)</u>. "I'm not voting for [Obama]. I want someone who won't change his stripes."

Fred, of course, changed his stripes. He propped up an establishment that was unfriendly to gay rights and then burst out of the closet into a possible presidential run. To some, this sounds like penunce.

He doesn't see it this way. He says he was supportive of gay rights anonymously all along, and that if he decides to run for president he will be a candidate for everyone, not just gays who want to quarb the National Organization for Marriage.

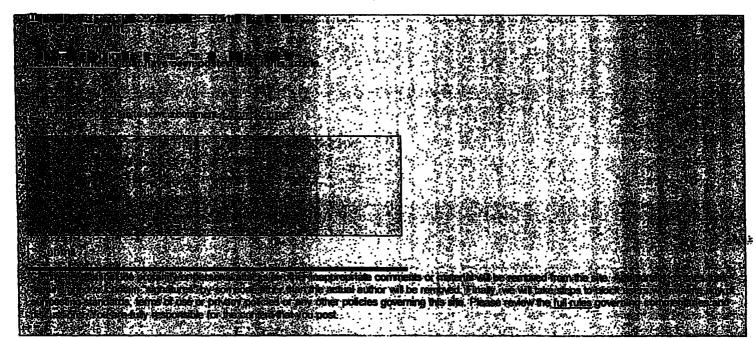
"It's much more meaningful than that," he says. "I want to be a messenger for my community within the public discussion. . . . I may ask every Republican looking at running to go have lunch, to meet and chat. If I can make headway with someone running for president, and be perceived as 'just another guy,' I think I would've accomplished something."

Though they and didactic on the stump, Fred's a winsome shmoozer. At the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington next week, he plans to ingratiate himself with conservatives, the media and other potential candidates like Tim Rawlengy, Rick Sautorum and Taxas Gov. Rick Perry. He's strugging to get into a March 7 candidate forum in Iowa, where the state's Republican National Committeesman verwed to "work overtime" to extinguish his "radical homosexual" candidacy. He's awaiting the criteria to participate in the May 2 debate at the Reagan Library in California. He's hoping donations take the weight off his wallet by the spring (his first official fundraiser at his second home in Laurel Canyon, Calif., netted \$10,000 Sunday night, and his goal for the campaign is a "frugal" \$5 million).

By the spiling he plans to ment a five-bedroom house in the north end of Manchester to establish a headquarters for companion practice weeks. The only taking that stands between his name and the New Hampshire primary ballot is a \$1,000 fee. Anyone, after all, can run for president.

This is grazy, Fred knows, but he's never delt nume sane.

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A change in political seasons

January 30, 2011

By Jan. 30, 2007, 11 Republicans had made formal moves — announcing exploratory committees or full-fledged candidacies — to run for pensident the following year. Four years later, only two notable candidates — talk-show bast and businessman Harman Cein, and California political consultant Fred Karger — have made similar announcements.

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2085 CARDIDATES

March 9, 2006; John Cox, businessman, announced his candidacy. His campaign ended in late 2007.

Oct. 30, 20th; Duncasa Hunter, California congressiones, encounced he was forming explorationy committee. He innounced his candidacy on Jan. 25, 2007, and dropped out on Jan 19, 2008.

Nov. 20, 2006: Rudy Giuliani, former New York City mayor, filed pyperwork for exploratory committee. He announced candidacy on Feb. 5, 2007, and dropped out on Jan. 30, 2008.

Nov. 16, 2008: John McCain, senater from Arizona, filed to establish exploratory committee. He announced his candidacy on April 25, 2007.

Den. 4, 2006: Sam Brownback, senniar from Kansas, filled to establish septembory committee. He launched his bild but Jan. 20, 2007, and desupped out Oct. 19, 2007.

Deal 13, 2006: Tomasy Thompseto, former Wistonisia generator, filed to establish explanatory committee. He annealed his candidacy on April 4 and dropped out on Aug. 12, 2007.

Jan. 3, 2007: Mitt Romney, former Massachusetts governor, filed to establish exploratory committee. He announced his candidacy on Feb. 13, 2007, and dropped out on Feb. 7, 2008.

Jan. 9, 2007: Jim Gilmore, former Virginia governor, filed to establish exploratory committee. He announced his candidacy on April 26 and dropped out en July 14, 2007.

Jan. 11, 2007: Ron Paul, congressman from Texas, filed to establish an exploratory committee. He announced his candidacy on March 12, 2007, and dropped out on March 6, 2008.

Jan. 16, 2007: Torn Tancredo, former Colorado congressman, announced that he would form an exploratory committee later that week. He announced his candidacy on April 2 and dropped out on Dec. 20, 2007.

Jan. 28, 2007: Mike Huskalesn, former Arkansas governer, announced he would file to form an exploratory committee the next day. He dropped out on March 4, 2008.

June 2007: Fred Thumsond, formor US senator from Tensmane, formed a "busting the waters" committee. He declared he was running on Sept. 5. 2007. He dropped out on Jan. 22, 2008.

2012 POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

Fred Karger: A California-based political consultant and gay rights activist. Karger, who would be the first openly gay presidential candidate of either party, formed an exploratory committee on July 18.

Herman Cais: Former chief executive of Godfather's Pizza, former chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, and host of Atlanta-based radio show. Cain, who has strong Tea Party support, announced on Jan. 12 he would form an explicatory conveittee.

Tim Parvinnity: Former Inlinumenta governor has have insured priched himself as a blue collar, "Sam's Club Republican," and said he will make a decision in March or April.

Mitt Romney: Fermsr Massachusatts governor and former Bain exacutive has been seen as the establishment candidate, particularly for a party that tends to reward faithful stalwarts who lose in the previous nominating contest. Romney spent much of tast year raising money and endorsing candidates in the midterm elections. He is not expected to announce until the spring.

John Thune: The South Dakota senator won his seat in an upset win in 2004 over incumbent from Daschie, the former majority leader. He is seen as a rising star — a Republican version of Berack Obama — and has been urged to run by Senate Minority

ler Mitch-McConnell. Thune says be will make a decision spon-

Newt Gingrich: The former 10-term Georgia congressman and House speaker led the Republican takeover of the House in the mid-1990s. But following GOP loses in 1998, he resigned from both the speakership and his congressional seat. He toyed with running for president in 2008 but opted out. He said he would announce his intentions by the end of March.

Mike Huckabee: The former Arkansas governor surprisingly won the lowa caucuses in 2008. As an ordained Southern Baptist mirriater, he was supposed from supposed fro Semillar John McCala. Ninus host of a Fox News show, bu said he equal one guide on official unanumented until "the lotter part of the maximer, if at all."

Sarah Palin: The former vice presidential nominee has done little to stay out of the spotlight since the 2008 campaign. After resigning as Alaska governor, she has been a frequent presence in the media, commenting on national events and filming a reality TV show about life in Alaska. She has said she is considering a presidential run but has not given any sense of timing.

Michelle Beckmann: The Ittinamplem is starting and buy taled term in Compass bot has presided a cultimat extend through television. appearances, controversial statements, and prodictious fund-raising. A founder of the House Tea Party Caucus, she has been seen as a thurn in the side of Heuse Russishtane leadure, namt recently for giving a tolerised response to the president's Stain of the **Union additions that compared with the official GOP response. She visited lowe corder tals report.**

Jon Huntsman: The former governor of Utah was appointed ambassador to China by President Qbama, in what some viewed as a canny move to eliminate a potential political rival. Huntsman — who, like Romney, is Mormon and wealthy — recently purchased a home in Washington and has not tamped down speculation he would run for president.

Haley Barbour: The governor of Missiscippi is a former chaimnan of the Republican National Committee who must recently rem the Repulsion Government Approximation — and was highed for his atomy to raise money and common corner offices. He said he wouldn't announce any plans until after the legislative session wraps up in April.

Mileh Daniela: The Indiana governor, a former top official at

Eli Lilly and Co. ...

, was budget director under George W. Bush (who gave him the nickname "The Blade" for his cost-cutting proclivities). He said he would not announce his plans until the legislative session wraps up in late April.

Rick Santorum: The former two-term congressman from Pennsylvania won a US Senate seat in 1994, where he rose to number 3 GOP Readenable position but was hander defeated in his 2006 recliction bid. A social and fiscal conservative, his has been among the nest active in traveling and laring staff in early primary status, including New Hampshire. He said in an interview there was "zero chance" of him announcing anything before April.

Jim DeMint: The sendor frem South Chrolina has entegorized establishment forgublicans by undersing purceing Tea Party-budged condidates during GQP primaries. He has desired that he will aun for president but stined speculation by announcing a trip to lowe in March for a conservative forum.

Ron Paul: The Texan is entering his 11th term in Congress. He has twice run for president — in 1988 as the Libertarian nominee and again in 2006 for the Republican nomination — and attracted a devoted following. He consistently performs well in straw polls of the party failthful, including the Conservative Political Action Conference politicat year. His son, Rand, just wen a US Sesale seat in Kentuelly. He has east let would consider another presidential campaign, but he has also said he's multing a US Senate bid in Texas.

Rush Gistiani: Served two terms as mayor of New York, instuding during the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. He sought the Rushblinen nomination in 2008, but performed poorly in the early paroun and primary states. He said this month that he would consider anothing run for president.

SOURCES: Democracy in Action; candidate announcements and websites; news reports

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Potential '12 contenders visiting before election

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Written by

JASON CLAYWORTH

10:18 PM, Oct. 25, 2010

An army of possible 2012 Republican presidential candidates is marching into lowa, the nation's first caucus state, in this final week of the midterm election cycle.

On the list: former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, former Massachusette Gov. Mett Romney, gay civil rights Republican activist Fred Karger, Missisatppi Gov. Haloy Barbaur, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindel, Virginia Gov. Rob McDonnell, Texas Rep. Ron Paul and Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty.

Except Karger, all say they are on the campaign trail to stump for governor candidate Terry Branstad and other Republican candidates or their issues. But they are also prometing - at least ladirectly - their camp national political preminense.

Some also bring campaign cash. Pawlenty, who has made the most visits to lowa of the potential caucus candidates, has already donated nearly \$114,000 to lowa Republican candidates.

"National Republicans - be they the ones who will be here in the next week or the ones that have been here to help out like Sarah Palin or (New Jersmy Gev.) Chrin Christie - recognize that it probably pays dividends down the road if they were helpful in making us successful in 2010," said lowe Republican Party Chairman Matt Strawn. "It at least gives them something that they can point to showing they helped the cause."

and the second s

Democrats have their own big names coming, although not as large a herd as the Republicans, or, with the examption of Vica President Jae Bideo, the profile of future national candidates.

On Thursday Sen. Tom Harkin will campaign with Gov. Chet Culver and Senate candidate Roxanne Conlin.

On Friday, Biden will campaign for U.S. Rep. Brace Braley.

Also Friday, former lowa first lady Christie Vinack will speak at a fundraiser for



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Francis Thicke, the party's candidate for state agriculture secretary.

Some Democrats maintain hope that President Batack Cibaroa will make a stop in lawa to campaign for Calver. On Sept. 29, when Obaraa spoke at a backyard gathering in Das Moines, Culvar said he expected the president would return in support of his re-election.

"We haven't heard anything more," Culver said Monday, when asked about a possible campaign stop by the president.

Strain and Democratic strategist Reb Tully said the real boost of having big names come to candidates' events is not so much to change voters' minds. It's to help campaigns raise enthusiasm levels to inspire voters to make their way to the polls.

An example is Sen. Tom Hatitin's exceleration bid in 1996 against Republican Jim Lightfoot, which benefited from a visit by them-President Bill Clinton, Tully said.

"That turned it around," Tully said. "These last few days are important. They're important for candidates, but more importantly, they're important to rally our base to do the work they need to do to get the vote out."

Pawlenty, blinresota's governor, has a full-time staffer working in lowa to help Republicans win in next week's elections, said Alex Conant, a Pawlenty spokesman. This weekend will mark Pawlenty's seventh visit to logia since the 2008 elections.

"Conservatives stand to make great gains in lowa this fall, and Governor Pawlenty wants to support those efforts," Conant said.

A CONTRACTOR AND A CONTRACTOR

Both Culver and Branstad have planned busy schedules through New. 2.

On Monday, Culver boasted of having twice as many events scheduled as Branstad in the final days of the race. He accused Branstad of vacationing over the weekend in an effort to duck talking about issues such as hew he'll vote on whether to retain the three lewa Supreme Court justices on next week's ballot.

"Terry Branstad is on vacation, folks,"
Culver said Monday to a crowd of about 60 people at Baby Boomers restaurant in Des Moines as he kicked off what he calls his "Main Street versus Wall Street" tour. "He has been off since Thursday. He's not on the campaign trail again until tomorrow, with Mitt Romann, his Well Street buddy."

Between last Thursday and Nov. 2, Cultur's campaign has scheduled at least 72



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campaign stops.

Branstad, in the same time, has 36 scheduled campaign events that veere open to the general public, norms of there between last Thursday's dehote and today's 10 a.m. event in Ceder Rapids, where Romney will speak.

Branstad in the past few days conducted a fundraising house party and a meeting with employees at Pioneer Hi-Bred and did media interviews, said spokesman Tirm Albrecht. He also spoke with Des Moines business leaders Monday and planned to attend a GOP event at Tassel Ridge Wirerry Monday evening.

"Rather than worrying about our schedule, which includes 36 events over the next seven days, we wish Chet Culver would f ocus on recovering the 55,000 jobs lost since he became governor," Albrecht said.

Campaigning in lowa

TODAY

- Former Massachusetts Gow. Mitt Romney will campaign with Republican dandidate for governor Terry Branstad at 10 a.m. at the Hotel Kirkwood, 7725 Kirkwood Blvd. S.W., Cedar Rapids, and a noon event at the Grand River Center, 500 Bell St., Duburque.
- Fermer Pennsylvasria San. Rick Sentourm will be part of a tract to encourage votes egginst misining the three lows Supreme Court justices whose ruling last year allowed same-sex marriage in lows. The tour is hosted by the Family Research Council Action and the National Organization for Marriage. Sentorum's stop will be at 2:38 p.m. at City Square, 120 N. Filth St., Fort Dedge. Stantorum disc held enumts on Monday for U.S. Rep. Tom Lattern and state Rays. Chais Happener of Windstein Heights.
- Reabblican gay rights activist Fred Kerger, who is

considering a run for president, will speak with several clauses or groups at the University of lows. The final musting is with the unitage's Republican group at 9 p.m., 61 Schlastier Hall, long. City.

WEDNESDAY

- Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell will campaign for Branstad at an event that begins at 11 a.m. at the Jasper County Republican Party Headquarters, 167 First Ave. VF., Newton.

THURSDAY

- lowa Sen. Tom Harkin will take part in the "Get-Out-the-Vote" tour with Culver and Roxanne Conlin, a Democrat challenging Sen. Chuck Grassley. Details of the eyept were not finalized at press time.

FRIDAY

- Vice President Joe Biden will attend a campaign event for U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley. Doors open at 10: ` 30 a.m. at the Grand River Center, 500 Bell St., Dubuque.
- Democrat and farmer lows first ledy Christin Vilsack will attend a fundraiser for Francis Thicke, a Democrat running for lows secretary of agriculture. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Dave and Tamera Hubler, 6198 Kings Way, West Des Moines.
- Texas representative and fermer presidental candidate Ron Paul will special at 7:45 p.m. at the University of laws's Main Lounge in Memorial Union, 125 N. Madison St., lowa City.

SUNDAY



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- Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty will campaign for Branstad at an event that begins at 1 p.m. at the Clarke County Enigrounds Events Center, 2070 U.S. Hwy. 34 W., Omceole, and at a second event that begins at 2:30 p.m. at Godfather's Pizza, 1802 N. John Wayne Drive, Wieteraet.



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The New Hork Stones

The Caucus

The Politics and Government Blog of The Times

NOVEMBER 24, 2010, 6:10 PM

Gay 'Progressive' Republican on Air in Iowa

By JAKIE LORBER

It's never too early to test the waters — especially for an openly gay "progressive" Republican trying to snag the party's 2012 presidential nomination.

Fred Kargen, a long-time political operative who was a campaign aide to Ronald Reagan, has already started broadcasting campaign advertisements in Iowa and New Hampshire.

In a 90-senond spot that will run twice daily on For News throughout Inwa for a week, Mr. Karger calls himself an "independent Republican" and says he is "testing the waters in Iowa to see if I can raise some funds from my friends."

Mr. Karger, 60, has never held elected office and acknowledges that he does not have much of a shot at winning his party's nod. Instead, his goal is to make history as the first openly gay presidential candidate for a major party.

"My ovorriding goal is to be a participant in these Republican debates," he said in an interview on Wednesday. "I need to start early."

But Mr. Karger is hardly a political naophyte. He worked alangside the farmed Republican strategist, Lee Atwater, te derail Michael Dukakis's 1988 presidential campaign against George H.W. Bush. He was an outspoken critic of the Mormon Church for backing the 2008 ballot measure outlawing same-sex marriage in California. The liberal magazine Mother Junes described Mr. Karger as one of the G.O.P's "top dark-arts operators" in a profile last spring.

Mr. Karger has already run a one-minute television ad in New Hampshire for a week in September. The two ad buys cost him about \$1,000 each — pecket change by most campaign's standards; in return, Mr. Karger gats some face time in the two states that play key roles early in the primary season.

Mr. Karger has been busy for a long-thot single-issue candidate. He announced his interest in running for president in April and established an exploratory committee three prouths later. Since than he has made 14 trips to New Hampshire or Iowa and now employs two full-time campaign aides.

Between divisions within the Republican Party and President Obama's failure to deliver on promises to the gay community, Mr. Karger said "the time is right."

Will Openly Gay Republican Fred Karger Run for President in 2012?

Posted by Lauren Seifert

Fred Karger insists he has strong Republican credentials.

"I have a great credo as a Republican," he told CBS News chief political consultant Marc Ambinder on Thursday's Washington Unplugged. "I've worked for President Reagan as a senior campaign consultant in 1980 and 1984. I've supported President George H. W. Bush. I've worked on nine presidential campaigns and this would be my tenth."

What's interesting is that this longtime Republican is openly gay and may also run for president in 2012.

"I will make a decision probably within the next several months," he told Amhinder. "I'm going to most with some of my friends and advisers, and try to make a decision on whether or not to proceed. I'm testing the waterz."

Karger wants voters to know this isn't a joke, and he has the credentials to back up his possible run. "I had two goals this year," he said. "One was to prove to people that this isn't a stunt. That if I do run this is very serious, and step two is to prove that I'm credible, and I think I've pretty well established that."

Kargar is a passionate amporter and activist for the repual of the military's "Don't Ask Don't Teli" policy and other gay rights issues. Ambitder caked him how he would grade President Chame's performance when it comes to tackling gay rights issues.

"On gay, civil rights issues, things that's he's posmised us, he gets a D at best," Karger replied, "I'm hoping this month, in lame duck, we'll get 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' repealed."

He continued, "It's a no-brainer. It teaches younger people in this country discrimination; gay and straight. It's really a disgrace, and our country should be embarrassed."

The Republican also noted that President Obama doesn't have the energy and enthusiasm that he had as candidate Obama. "I think he's not happy," he said "He seems dopressed to me. His wife seems very depressed. I don't think they're having a vary good time in this."

Kanger's been well received in Iawa and New Hampshire, where he's taken a number of trips to test the waters and has even released two commercials. But not overyone has embraced him with open arms, including Iowa Republican National Committeeman Steve Schefler who, according to Karger, had less than kind words for him

"He said, 'You and the radical homosexual community are not welcome in Iowa. I'm going to work overtime' --

und this was an interesting choice of words — 'to abort your candidacy," Karger said, "Tve tried to meet with _im, I've tried to reach out to him. He's never even met me." A message left for Mr. Schefler was not immediately returned.

Regardless of the criticism, Karger is stepping into history if he ultimately decides to run. As he told Ambinder, "There's never been a gay person who's run for president of the United States before. There's great intrigue with that, and certainly in [Iowa and New Hampshire] they've been extremely courteous."

Watch Thursday's Washington Unplugged also featuring director and producer Doug Liman on his new film Fair Game, the real life tale of exposed CIA operative Valeric Plame, starring Sean Pean and Naomi Watts.

What's Your Take? Awesome 1 Shocking 2 Infuriating 5 Important 6
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Republican and Gay-Rights Activist Gears up for a Presidential Run

By Kristin Brown Created 2010-11-24 11:49

The ink is barely dry on the midterm election ballots, but the 2012 presidential campaign is already officially underway. One Republican has launched an exploratory committee, released a presidential campaign ad, and even paid a visit to lowa, the first state to hold a presidential caucus every election. That Republican is <u>Fred Karger</u> 11.

Fred whe, you ask?

That's exactly why he's starting so early. Nobody knows who he is.

Karger is a former aide to President Ronald Reagan p and describes himself as an "independent Republican." He's also openly gay, and his platform mostly centers around gay-rights issues, like ending the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy and legalizing gay marriage. Karger founded "Californians Against Hate," a group that encouraged Californians to vote against Proposition 8, which effectively banned gay marriage in the state. Proposition 8 passed in 2008.

Karger released his <u>presidential campaign ad 191</u> this week, in which he's seen strolling through what appears to be an lowa fair - introducing himself, shaking hands, handing out frisbees, and generally trying to spread his name around.

"Before I run for president, I need your help," Karger says in the ad. "I'm testing the waters in lowa to see if I can raise some funds from my friends."

Karger faces a steep challenge indeed - without name recognition, fundraising for a presidential carrowagn will likely prove draunting. Although he worked as a political consultant for years, Karger has never held elected office - but paints himself as a "true outsider" trying to change the system.

"I're concerned that the partisan rancor's only going to continue and get in the way of our country's progress," he says in the ad.

. p. 2.3



Source URL: http://politics.blogs.foxnews.com/2010/11/24/republican-and-gay-rights-activist-gears-presidential-run

Links:

- [1] http://www.fredkarger.com/
- [2] http://www.foxnews.com/topics/politics/ronald-reagan.htm#r_src=ramp
- [3] http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXvZvawDWVM

POLITICO

Long shots crowd GOP field

By: Alexander Burns February 10, 2011 04:41 AM EST

A pack of longer-than-long-shot Republican presidential hopefuls have lined up for the 2012 campaign, drawing attention to themselves by visiting early-primary states and raising the prospect of a larger and make enlectic field than any in recent memory.

They can't compete with the GOP's heavy hitters for money, media attention or, in all likelihood, votes. They defy the laws of political logic. Yet they're running anyway — to gain personal celebrity, to draw attention to issues they care about or just to see whether, against all plausible expectations, they can catch fire on the campaign trail.

Their numbers include a pizza-oznative-termed-tea-party-activist, a political constitunt who contributed to Hillary Clinton in 2008, multiple congressional backbenchers and at least four former governors and sonators who've faded from the source, only to reserface to time for 2012.

While these potential candidates may not have much in common, they share a recognition that the barriers to entering a presidential race are lower than ever — and that even a losing presidential candidate has something to gain from having run.

The weight of history is against most of thom. Despite the fact that no sitting House muchber has won the presidency since 1889, several House numbers — immong them Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann and lowa Rep. Steve King — have said they would consider cunning under the right citcumstances.

Only nominally more viable are several politically dated former governors, including George Pataki of New York, libertarian-leaning Gary Johnson of New Mexico and Louisiana's Buddy Roæmer — an ex-Democrat whose sole term ended in the early 1990s. Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum is another improbable. He lost his last race five years ago by a wide margin.

Their there is former Nevada candidate Sharron Angle, coming of nonsecutive defeate for the state. Senate, the U.S. House and the U.S. Senete. Despite those setbacks, she recently made a much-moter appearance in lowa and isn't ruling out a campaign for president. Neither is former United Nations Ambassador John Bolton, who has never run for effice before and is best known for his gig as a Fox News commentator.

"Everybody who runs for president knows they probably have long odds," said David Yepsen, a former longtime Des Moines Register reporter who now directs the Paul Simoe Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University.

But running for president has rewards for even the most extreme underdog, Yepsen said.

"They're asked to comment on things. Yes, they commend facture from and use sell trooks and can wind up on a TV program," he continued. "You generally wind up with an enhanced status of some kind. It's not true for everybody, but it's true for most of them."

That might explain some of the other candidates who are floating their names or making moves toward running: New York real estate mogul Donald Trump; Herman Cain, the

5.2

fermer CEO of Godfather's Pizza knewn for speaking et conservative gatherings; and Fred --- Karger, a GOP operative and Hillary Clinton donor repning on a pro-gay-rights platform.

It's a long way from 1988, when the Democratic field was mocked as "Gary Hart and the seven dwarfs." Those "dwarfs" included a future House minority leader (Rep. Dick Gephardt), a Cabinet secretary (Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt) and two future vice presidents (Serts. All Gore and Jus Biden) — plus Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, who actually won the nomination.

As the 2012 cycle begins to get under way, the sheer volume and eccentricity of candidates censidering the race are striking by comparison.

For some of the prospective candidates, there are obvious upsides to a campaign. Dusty former officeholders get to be part of the national conversation again. Ideological mavericks get a platform to speak about their ideas. Minor legislaters and failed candidates suddenly cet treated like genuine pewer players.

Readment, a congressional backbenginer who dropped a short-lived bid for House leadership, even had her response to the State of the Union broadcast on CNN after she made a trip to lowa.

Johnson, the former two-term New Mexico governor, said the campaign was at a point where candidates wanted to "see if throwing that spit wad up against the window sticks."

"Their idea is to see if people flock to them," Johnson said of the growing candidate field. "It ranely happens. But they do that, and the reality of that comes home and, in most cases, they don't run.

Johnson, who left office in 2003, read that while New Mexico has a Senate seat open in 2012, he's not interested in running for any federal office except the presidency.

"If I were looking at it, it would be the notion that maybe I might be the only one saying something different than the other 19," Johnson said.

Karger, for one, lacks Johnson's cachet as a former top elected official. He is more or less upfront about his chances, citing the late Rep. Shirley Chishelm — who was the first black candidate to seek a major-party nomination — as an inspiration for his run as an openly gay Republican.

"She wanted to pave the way for others in her community" when she ran in 1972, Karger said. "I want to let young people in my community know they can do anything they want to do, even run for president of the United States."

That task will get easier, Karger said, if he's included in early candidate debates.

"If that happens, as we've seen with others, there could be a breakout moment and anything can happen," he said.

If the campaign were a reality where, it might be called "America's Next Top Ron Paul" — named for the quirky Texas congressman whose anti-war, pro-gold-standard platform won him wide notice and more than a few vetes during the 2008 Republican primaries.

"You don't have to be a longtime party elite, at this point, to think you have viability to run for office at a variety of different levels," said Jesse Benton, an adviser to Paul's 2008

The ability to spread a message through the spread a message through the second media has really revolutionized who has access to run."

Benton was skeptical that any of the 2012 newcomers would be able to replicate what his boss accomplished in 2008 and wondered if any could match Paul's "35-year record of consistency."

Sure enough, Paul is planning a trip to lowa in March and has not ruled out another national campaign in 2012.

He's also a prime example of a marginal candidate who came out dramatically better off after a losing campaign. Paul's now the high-prefile ehairman of the committee that oversees the Federal Reserve. And the national following he developed in 2008 helped elect his son Rand to the Senate last year from Kentucky. Benton managed Rand Paul's campaign.

That's the bottom line for many of the candidates embracing their impossibly long odds for 2012: Even if they can't win the nomination, they also can't really lose.

"Is Pat Buchanan better off today than he was before he ran?" Yepsen asked, referring to the 1992-vintage gadfly-turned-MSNBC-pundit. "I think that clearly enhanced his stature as a presidential candidate."

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Ballot Box

Potential White House candidate says path blocked by prejudice

By Sean J. Miller - 01/07/11 D6:44 PM ET

The only openly gay Republican exploring a presidential bid is fighting to be imhaded in an upcoming candidates forum hosted by the Iowa Christian Alliance.

Fred Karger, a retised GCP consultant from California, told The Ballot Box he's been excluded from the March 7 event because of his sexual orientation.

But Steve Scheffler, president of the lowe group, said Karzer wasn't among the 15 potential candidates invited to attend because he only talks about one Issue gay rights. "We're inviting all potential candidates who are legitimate candidates," Scheffler told The Ballot Box. Karger "is not a legitimate canffidate."

"That's ende for homophobia," said Karger, who werked as a consultant enthe late Ronald Reagan's campaigns for governor and president. "I'm going to send him a letter and ask that I be included, and I'm going to look to the [Federal Election Commission] to see what the rules are."

After a career in campaign politics during which he kept his orientation hidden, Karger retired into the role of gay-rights advecate. He's confedering a run for president, he said, in order "to send a message to younger people." And he's already begun lighting the groundwork for a company.

Karger has formed an exploratory committee, but is using his over money to fund his travel to lown and New Hampshire, where he has two staff meashers.

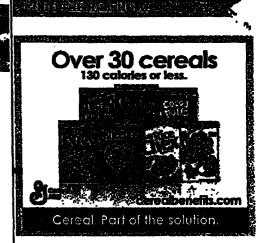
"I'm going to fight, as many potential candidates do, to get into these forums and debates, and I will. This is number one." he said.

Karger said Scheffler has tried to menace him out of entering the race for the Republican nomination.

"[He] threatment me in a personal e-mail," Kanper said. "[Scheitler said] he'd work creations to about my candidnay."

Scheffler derlisted to commont on his exchanges with Karger.

The forum is expected to draw potential GOP presidential contenders such as Mitt Romney, Tim Pawlenty and Sarah Palin. The lowa Christian Alliance also



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The Republican primary

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CO.ADO. YOUR COMMENT

PAGE: 1 1 2 1 3 1 >

There is a new paramoia for the political correctness crowd: CODE-PHOBIA !! When some one sees any deviation from their own agenda they pick out a phrase/word as being "a CODE for whatever cause they tout. I have a good code word :BEESSSSS!!

BY VIVIAN on 01/07/2011 at 21:08

gas to legal that yet, why do you that you have successful and the service of the

Believe me, it can happen!

BY BARRY IN D.C. on 01/07/2011 at 22:26

Y MARKY IN D.C. on 01/07/2011 at 22:20

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(Cath happening around them

into high a like abstinence based sex education.

Graguma work. Even churches admit it.

introit true conservatives

EXECCTED C on 01/07/2011 at 22:45

1200XD C on 01/07/2011 et 22:45

I love you man!

BY RHAMEYBEAR IN CHI. on 01/07/2011 at 23:33

Many in agree with jean... we keep reducing the morality and the country league going into Melectine. Any one that reads history can easily see open you reduce the morality suddhes faultural standards of that civilization the civilization goes into a decline and eventually editionable exist. Decadence, plain and simple, and all this has just undermined the country light extrain marring forward, is worthless if we are married favoured off the signor a civil.

BY T.J. JACKSQN on 01/07/2011 at 23:41

Go to his website, and look at his "agenda". He has the gay rights part down pat, but will have the minor things like the wars, economy, texes out "at a future date"

I am a conservative that happens to be gay, and I would not vote for him from what I saw.

Take the time to also listen to his interview on the page- It is all about gay rights

BY LES_GVT on \$1/08/8941 at oquas

The white house is looking for a few good men.

Gry DOWNLOWBRO on 01/08/2011 at 2013

Here we go again. Us politically incorrect types need to be tolerant of everyone else's views but if we speak our views on this issue we are "humophobic"! Sorry, I won't compromise my views or principles. Homosexuality is a sin!!! Are you tolerating MY view??? Didn't

BY POLITICALLYINCORRECT on 01/08/2011 at 01:28

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Published on Concord Monitor (http://www.concordmonitor.com)

Home > Karger to release anti-NOM ad

Karger to release anti-NOM ad

By Shira Schoenberg Created 01/25/2011 - 16:32 Capital Beat

Fred Kerger, a presidential contender and gay rights activist from California, will be releasing a statewide TV ad on Thursday.

The ad, titled "The Battle of Concord +2011" will oppose attempts by the National Organization for Marriage to get the state Legislature to repeal gay marriage. Karger, who is visiting New Hampshire for the 11th time, said the ad buy will start Thursday on WMUR and will then be hroadesst on statewirle cable. The buy will cost less than \$1,000.

Karger has fought the National Organization for Marriage in Maine and California. "I'm calling them a hate group," Karger said.

Karger, who is spending the entire week in New Hampshire, will travel to Centrord and Mauchester with former Manchester state representative Bob Thompson to promote the ad. He is holding town hall events in Keene, Portsmouth and Manchester. He is also doing several media interviews and visits with college organizations, including a pizza night with the UNH Gay/Straight Alliance.

Capital Beat Politics Presidential election Fred Karger primary 2012

Source URIL: http://www.conoundstonitor.com/blogentry/236297/karger-to-release-anti-nons-ad



By Elizabeth Dinan edinan@semmastonline.com Jeonary 25, 2811 12:12 PM

PORTSMOUTH — Republican Fred Karger is considering whether to become the first openly gay candidate for President of the United States.

STATE STREET, STREET,

He'll be the first exploration presidential candidate to stump in the Seacoast this election season, making two stops in the city on Thursday. A political consultant who worked on nine presidential campaigns, a gay-rights activist and a Los Angeles resident, Karger told the Herald he'll first stop at the Golden Egg restaurant, then the home of Portsmouth Democrat Norm Patenaude.

The restaurant stop is scheduled from 2:30 to 3:30 and is in conjunction with a "Save the Sagarnore Bridge" meeting. The stop at Patenaude's home will be a "town hall meeting."

Karger, who'll be 61 on Sunday, said he met at the Golden Egg with local businessman and former Seriate candidate Bill Sinnie about six weeks ago when he was asked to help with the pending and temporary closure of the Sagamore Bridge for repairs. The bidge leads to the frent of the restaurant and owner Debbie Gosselin said when it was closed for two weeks last spring, her bottom line sank 40 percent.

More extensive repairs are planted and may call for the bridge to be stosed for its a long as a year, said Gonselin. So when Karger intenduced himself during the visit to the Golden Egg, one of Gosselin's waitresses asked the potential candidate for help with the bridge closure.

Gosselin said Karger organized Thursday's meeting as an opportunity to bring area residents and businesspeople together to discuss plans for the closure. His staff, she said, has been making flyers and planning strategies.

"So I've got these guye running around trying to help," she said. "Vie're afraid we're going to have to by people off, or close. That's our limit to downtown."

Karger said he met Patenaude, a Democrat, in Ogunquit last summer and the two have since become friends.

He describes himself as fiscally conservative and socially moderate, while acknowledging that being gay and a Republican is viewed as an oxymoron. An "independent Republican," Karger said is his brand of politics, as well as "not my father's Republican party."

"I've been working very hard and this will be my eleventh trip to New Hampshire meeting with anyone who will meet with me," he said.

Karger's first fundraiser will be Sunday at his California home and, he said, he plans to "raise money differently than other candidates."

"In government we need to tone down the spending," he said. "Think of the \$650 million spent on the Obama campaign and a president who thinks nothing of a trillion-dollar stimulus package."

Karger said he wants the Republican party to "open up to young people," in particular voters between the ages of 18 and 29. He started his presidential exploratory efforts at the University of New Hampshire 11 months ago and on Jan. 25 will return to LINH to speak to a gay and lesbian group, this time with a reporter from the Washington Post.

"It's my first traveling press corps." he said.

Following the Portamouth stops on Thursday, Karger is scheduled to appear at The Element bar in Manchester, described on its Web site as "New Hampshize's hottest alternative night club." In 2006, Karger founded "Save the Boom!!!." a campaign to save the landmark Boom Boom Room, the oldest West Coast gay bar.

He then founded Californians Against Hate and in 2000 was co-director of the gay-straight alliance for President George W. Bush.

A methor of the Doletin Green Karner marshauf federal date and least connection includes includes successful

"opposition campaigns." He's also worked as an actor on television shows and commercials.

Karger said he'll know by spring if his prasidential bid is viable and if he'll be making history.

- Back to Original Article

With departure of Mike Pence, Republican presidential field looking fallow right now

Rep. Mike Pence's decision to not seek the presidency disappoints some conservative activists looking for fresh blood in the Republican park. Veterans Huckahoe, Romany and Palin are testing the uniters. Same think Sen. John Thans could rise to the onxaiom.

January 28, 2011 | By James Oliphant, Los Angeles Times

Regarding from Washington - 54 Mills: Fence is out. The question remains, as it has for some time: Who, exactly, is in?

Here's the quick and Jirty enswer: Herman Cain, Fred Karger and Jimmy McMillan.

These are not tan starring shown Husman for the Green Bay Packaun finise is an African American talk show host and former pizza company CEO from Georgia, Karger is a California political consultant and gay activist, and McMillan is the leader of the "Rent is Too Damn High" party in New York, and is now probably best human for biting passodied im "Satznetty Hight Live."

That's your current Republican field for the 2012 prosidential race.

Pence, a congressman from Indiana, told supporters in a letter Thursday that he would not pursue the presidency, disappointing some conservative activists looking for some fresh blood in a field currently populated by a Levy of Samiliar faces.

At this point in 2017, CUP candidates who had foundly distinted backaded John McClin, Mitt Remney, Ron Paul, Tommy Thompson and Duncan Hunter. (Not to mention a fellow named Sarack Cosma on the Dampsontic side.)

While thousant is widely believed to be gaugering a grantel was; in culturated this wask that he's still testing the waters: "We are doing the things we need to keep in the gabile eye," he said Fox News, "but we heard't made a decision at his gaint."

Those things included a recent "listening tour" of the Middle East, including at stop in Afghanistan. And Romney will be boosting his public profile next week as he appears on ABC's "The View" and Piers Morgan's show on CNN on the same day.

Sarah Palin has done little recently to quell speculation that she is planning a bid. Her lengthy 1,700-word response to President Obama's State of the Union address was no serious a criffque slic has effect of the current administration. On Feb. 4, she will be delivering the keynote address at a banquet celebrating the recent administration. On Feb. 4, she will be delivering the keynote address at a banquet celebrating the recent administration. On Feb. 4, she will be delivering the keynote address at a banquet celebrating the recent administration.

According to the Years, America's Foundation, which is appeared by the most, "See. Pails will show possible to today while calling for years people to emissue the Bressen prodution into the fature."

Shortly before that speech, Tim Pawlenty, the former Minnesota governor, will be wrapping up a book tour in Iowa. Pawlenty has said he would make a decision sometime in the spring.

Milte Hudiatee, the former Arkenias governor and current Fox News personality, will be traveling lows in February on a book tour of his own. Last week, Huckabee told an audience that he would skip the first presidential debate at the Reagan Presidential Library in May. (So far, the slate for that debate is looking pretty assemic.) And when candidates gather for a debate in New Hampshire in June, Huckabee is scheduled to be on an Alaskan cruise with Christian invasicions.

How lesser-known punerial conditions such as Mississippi firs. Haley Bestrour, Indiana Sov. Mitch Daniels and former Sen. Rick Santorum — any of whom you would think would benefit from an early start in such thaird their mathematicane encognition — however they are guiting off a durision almost specific.

Finally, that faint sound you hear is the slight buzz beginning to build around Sen. John Thune of South Dakota. No one may have been helped more by Pence's decision to lorgo a bid than Thune, a favorite of conservatives both inside and outside of Washington. In an interview with ABC News earlier this week, Thune made note of the lack of a true front-runner.

"Chaimaly, there's a big opportunity on the national field," There said.

The idea of a Thoma candidaty was entired and cannot by Sanate Missarity Landor Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) earlier this week. "I think John is an entraordinarily impressive individual," McConnell said in an interview an MSMSC. "I hope by will run. I think be would make a great president of the United States."

Sen. James Inhafe of Oklahoma cited another season to back Thane. "He's taller than our president," he told the National Review. (As history has shown: Never discount height when it comes to candidates.)

Why has the field remained so still! Money is one reason — this promises to be the most expensive presidential campaign in history and a later start helps save researces. But another large factor is the political leason imparted by the tutulances 2010 congressional midtern campaign season, in which frust-menters quickly became targeted by "tea party" activists and where just about any candidate tied to the establishment suffered as a result.

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A third-reasenges ld-involve he agree identee house provingence impopularity. Rising GOB statis such an Humid Beniels in perhaps in the following the following statis of New Jersey, may want to hold off as long as they can to see if taking on an incumbent president with reasonably high approval ratings makes sense, or whether they might be better off waiting until 2016.

Still, potential entrants like Thune know that their window for getting in is a short one. "We realize that if you're going to do this, you have to get moving," he said.

He could be speaking for the entire GOP slate of maybe-candidates. Fairly soon, something's gotta give.

joliphant@latimes.com

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"John DiStaso's Granite Status: Former city Alderman Richard Girard among Santorum's latest hackers

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By JOHN DISTASO
Senior Political Reporter
1 hour, 14 minutes ago

WEDNESDAY UPDATE: MORE FOR SANTORUM. Rick Santorum later today will disclose a new list of Granite Staters who've joined his state advisory committee.

We've learned that among them will be Richard Girard, who will also assist with policy issues.

Girard is a former Manchester alderman who worked with former Mayor Ray

Wieczorek as campaign manager and senior staffer.

Also on the list is Brook Weber, a student at Saint Auselm College in Manchester, who will serve on America's Foundation's (Santorum's PAC) College Republican Advisory Committee.

Weber is a member of the New Hampshire College Republican Federation's Executive Committee and chairman of Saint Anselm College Republicans. In 2008, Weber supported Mitt Romney in the Republican primary.

Eariier updates and the full Feb. 17 Granite Status follow. A new Granite Status will appear tomorrow in the New Hampshire Union Leader with a full, unabridged version at UnionLeader.com.

THURSDAY UPDATE: A WIN FOR KIMBALL. New state GOP chair Jack Kimball has secured a major speaker for a key party fund-raiser slated for late March.

New Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus has agreed to travel to the state to help raise money for the state party before the end of the first quarter, said Kimball's transition chair, Jennifer Horn.

The date of the fund-raiser will probably have to be changed from its original date of March 31 to accommodate Priebus, Horn said. But she said the party "has been able to confirm" that he will make an appearance.

"We're very excited that the national chairman will be here," said Horn.

She said that at the fund-raiser, Kimball will present former state GOP chair and Gov. John H. Sununu with a new award, called the "First-in-the-Nation Excellence Award" for Sununu's "decades of deducation and service to the Republican Party.

"It's a new award and we hope it becomes a primary year tradition," Horn said.

We've beaued that Kinitall held many personal conversations with Priches to secure his appearable.

The party will announce further details on the event as they are confirmed.

(Earlier updates and the full Feb. 17 Granite Status follow.)

THURSDAY UPDATE: FIRST OF MANY? Tea Farty Caucus leader and Minnesota U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann will make more than one trip to first-in-the-nation primary state, her chief of staff told the Granite Status

Andy Parrish confirmed our exclusive Wednesday night report that the three-term conservative will visit New Hampshire on March 12. He also said, "And there will be more" visits.

Parrish confirmed that Bachmann will appear at a fund-raiser for the New Hampshire Republican State Committee during what he said will be her first visit to the state as an elected official.

Parrish also said that "there will be other" events on March 12, "and we're working on those." Bachmann would obviously be a covered speaker for connervative and pro-liberty grupps.

Bachmann has been asked repeatedly if she will run for President, and, like other potential candidates, has not given a firm answer.

Asked again about running today on ABC News' "Good Informing America," Bachmann said she is "not there yet. I haven't made a decision about whether I'm going to engage."

She said she will travel to New Hampshire and other early causus and primary states because she is "interested primarily in making sure that for the next year, we're talking about the issues that the country is facing. I want to make sure that in the midst of looking at all the individual candidates, which must be desire, that we continue to focus on the iscoss of over-spending, debt, national semmity.

"I'm trying to set the table," Bachmann said, "because the voters are vital in these early states. They're going to make a very important decision about our nominee."

In a written statement sent earlier today, Farrish said, "The Congresswoman is looking forward to her trly on the 12th (of March) to New Hampshire.

"As a small business owner, former federal tax attorney, and mother of five, she knows first-hand what is at stake in the next election. She is committed to doing everything she can to repeal President Obama and replace him with a constitutional conservative."

State GOP spokesman Christine Baratta said, "We're thrilled that a sitting member of Congress is coming to New Hampshire to raise money for the party and we hope that more Republican member of Congress will do the same."

See our initial report below on the Bachmann visit.

Click for Bachmann's interview on "Good Morning America."

Click for Bachmann's official congressional web site.

Full Feb. 17 Granite Status follows.

BACHMANN'S MARCH VISIT. For Michele Bachmann, "soon" is March 12.

That's when the Minnesota congresswoman will make her first appearance of the 2012 cycle in New Hampshire, sources tell the Granite Status.

Tea Party favorite Bachmann, carrying a "Live Free or Die" bumper sticker, told reporters at last week's Conservative Political Action Conference that she planned to come to the first-in-the-nation primary state "soon."

We've learned that while the March 12 date has been agreed, details have yet to be nailed down. We're told the

eprimary focus of her visit will be to help the New Hampshire Republican Party under Jack Kimball's new to be in a series of small fund-raising events.

She has also received numerous invitations from other Republican and "pro-liberty groups," and apparently will try to accommodate who and what she can in what's expected to be a stay of fewer than 24 hours.

Bachmann has visited first-caucus state Iowa and is scheduled to appear in early primary state South Carolina on Friday and Saturday of this week.

Her trip to the Granite State has been highly anticipated and will undoubtedly get lots of coverage both locally and nationally.

► Haley Barbour Hosting N.H. 'Dinner and Date Night'
► U.S. Sen. Rubio says Fla. should not move its primary
► CNN: Florida House Speaker vows to keep early 2012 primary date

A GOP "WHO'S WHO." Any serious GOP presidential hopeful, especially those of the staunchly conservative variety, should probably consider making his or her way to Manchester April 29 for an event that will have a veritable "Who's Who" of New Hampshire Republican politics in one noom.

The Americans for Presperity - New Hampshire dinner and presidential summit at the Executive Court has attracted a host committee of many of the state's top Republicans. The event will honor Manchester attorney Ovide Lamontagne, whose run for the GOP U.S. Senate nomination last year put him in high favor with conservatives/Tea Party activists not only locally, but nationally as well.

As we've reported, AFP-New Hampshire will honor Lamontague as "Conservative of the Year."

And, as we've reported, AFP is planning to complement the dinner with "A New Hampskire Presidential Summit on Spending and Job Creation."

AFP-NH director Corey Lewandowski said that so far, the likely candidates confirmed to appear remain Rick Santorum and Herman Cain, but he also said, "We are working on getting other major candidates," including former governors Mitt Romney, Tim Pawlenty and Halby Barbour.

As noted, the host committee is impressive. And if all appear, as Levendovski expanse, it'd be werthwhile for any serious GOP presidential continuder to stop by.

Dinner chair is Harold Turner Jr., president and CEO of the H.L. Turner Group and former chair of the Business and Industry Association board, who was a Lamontagne campaign finance committee co-chair last year.

Honorary co-chairs are Sen. Kelly Ayotte (really!) and Baps. Frank Guizta and Charlie Baes as well as former state

GOP chair and Gov. John H. Sununu and former Sen. Gordon Humphrey.

Dinner hosts include Republican former candidate for governor, John Stephan, Senate President Peter Bragdon and Sens. Jeb Bradley, Chuck Morse and Tom DeBlois, House speaker Bill O'Brien, House Majority Leader D.J. Betttmowart, Eurp. Gene Chamiler, former Squate President Arthur Klemm, former Kurps. Ken Murrifield, Maureen Mooney, Cathy Stacey and Fran Wendellane, former congressional mandialists Junnifer Hurs, attorneys/activists Bryan Gould and Gordon MacDonald, Cornerstone Action chair Shannon McGinley and veteran GOP activists Robb

congressional delegation appearances depending on their Washington enhequies. He noted that besides the host committee members, about 400 energized conservatives will be in attendance for the \$50-a-person event. Two weeks earlier, on April 15 at noon, AFP will be one of the primary sponsors of the third annual Taxpayers/Tea Party Rally at the State House. It will be another prime setting for presidential politicking.

AN ADDITIONAL ANGLE EVENT. Last week, we reported that Tea Party favorite Sharron Angle of Nevada will be in the state Feb. 25 to attend the public premiur of the conservative Christian film, "The Genesis Code."

A second event has been added. Prior to the premier, the Republican Liberty Caucus of New Hampshire will host Angle at the Southern New Hampshire University reception center. A \$25 ticket includes admission to the Cinemagic Theater for the film.

SMOOTH BLUE WATERS. One might think that after a rough year at the ballot box, at least some Democrats might be in a mood for a change of leadership. Think again.

Apparently the party rank-and-file is satisfied with those at the top. In direct contrast to the raucous NHGOP campaign for chairman, there are no contested races for the top six offices of the New Hampshire Democratic Party.

The state committee will meet March 5 at Saint Anselm College to elect its officers. The party's filing period for officers closed Jan. 15.

Ray Buckley is unopposed for chairman. Former state Sen. Martha Fuïter Clark of Pertamouth will win a third term as first vice-chair. Dorothy Solomon of Albany is unopposed for a second term as second vice-chair.

Former state Sen. Bette Lasky is unopposed for a first term as party secretary, succeeding Mike Rollo, while state Rep. David Pierce of Etna will win a second term as treasurer and Grey Chynoweth of Manchester will win a second term as legal counsel.

And as previously reported, Andrew Hosmer is the party's new finance chair and former state Sen. Maggie Hassan is the grassroots outreach coordinator.

THEY LIKE HIM. Mitt Romney backers couldn't be happier about the results this week of the WMUR Granite State Poll conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.

First, it had Romney far ahead of any potential challenger, with the support of 40 percent of the 757 likely GOP presidential primary voters interviewed. Rudy Giuliani was second with 10 percent, with Tim Pawlenty and Mike Huckabee at 7 percent each, and Sarah Palin and Newt Gingrich each at 6 percent, Ron Paul at 5 percent, Donald Trump at 3 percent, and Rick Santorum and Haley Barbour at 1 percent each.

Second, Romney's overall favorable/unfavorable rating was 73 percent favorable, 8 percent neutral and 15 percent unfavorable, for a net favorability rating of plus 58 percent.

Giuliani was second with a plus 30 percent favorability, while on the opposite end of the scale, Trump hit a negative 43 percent and Palin, a negative 17 percent.

And while some in the media have contended that the Tea Party is sour on Romney, apparently that's not the case

Among self-identified Tea Party supporters, Romney's favorable rating is even higher than among all likely GOP primary voters, with 77 percent reacting favorably to him, and 13 percent viewing him unfavorably.

Among those who say they oppose the Tea Party, Romney was viewed favorably by 52 percent and unfavorably by 31 percent.

Among those who said they were "neutral" on the Tea Party, 74 percent viewed Romney favorably and 14 percent viewed him unfavorably.

Palin, among Tea Party supporters, was viewed favorably by 48 percent and unfavorably by 35 percent. Gingrich's favorable-unfavorable rating among Tea Party supporters was 53-29, while Gialiani's was 63-26 and Trump's was 24-62.

"SOME FREELANCE STUFF." When Frank Guinta's term as Manchester mayor ended in early January 2010, his public affairs adviser, Mark Laliberte, said he'd be taking some time off and doing "some stuff around the house.

Spend some time with my wife. Some freelance stuff."

Well, after being under the radar for more than a year, Laliberte emerged yesterday.

CNN reported that he has been tapped to oversee the New Hampshire operations for the newly-formed Draft Trump 2012.

This new deaft effort, repretedly created by Nick McLaughlin, a veteran of the Iraq War from Misseuri, joins the already-established "Should Trump Run?" website for supporters of The Donald.

KING OF THE BIRTHERS. Andy Martin of Chicago announced on WTPL radio in December that he will be a candidate for President.Martin, the self-described "king of the birthers," will be back in New Hampshire on Monday to speak to members of the Contoocook Valley Republican Committee at the Deering Town Hall.

Committee chair J.P. Marzullo said Martin will "kick off his campaign" at the event.

Marzullo said Martin will be accompanied by a camera crew to put the appearance on YouTube and to make a television commercial.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Martin has said he believes Obama was born in Hawaii, but he also believes the White House is blocking the release of the President's full birth certificate because it could contain embarrassing information.

"My campaign doesn't say he was born here or he was born there, it says produce the facts," he said. "Tell the truth to the American people. If you want our confidence, if you want our sons and daughters to die for your policies, we have to trust you."

KARGER'S RETURN. Likely GOP presidential hopeful Fred Karger, who is gay, returned to New Hampshire yesterday and says he'll be at the State House today to testify before the House Judiciary Committee on the bills to repeal the state's same-sex marriage law.

He says he'll then head to Dartmouth to speak to a rally of College Republicans, College Democrats and College
Libertarians opposed to House Bill 176, which, if passed, would require that "the demicile for voting purposes" of a
college student be the state or the New Hampshire city or town in which the student resided "immediately prior to
matriculation."

Karger said he plans to visit Portsmouth on Friday.

Separately, there are efforts underway to bring outgoing Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman to the Granite State in May.

And it's official, Gingrich has been formally announced as the featured speaker at the Nashua-based PLUS Company's 20th Annual Wild Irish Breakfast on St. Patrick's Day. According to the PLUS Company's amouncement, the event will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Organized by former Executive Counciler and Armer Nashua Mayor Barnie Streeter, it will also feature Gov. John Lynch, Nashua Mayor Donalee Lozeau, former state Sen. Peggy Gilmour and Patrick Griffin of Griffin, Krause and York advertising.

A DIRECT APPEAL. GOP chair Kimball espoused a very direct approach to raising money from the business community during an appearance before the Belknap County Republican Committee earlier this month.

He said that contributing to the GOP "is an investment.

"If you can take a businessman like myself and say, 'Hey, look, if we give you tax relief, regulatory relief that's going to produce an additional \$50,000 or \$60,000 in seeings for you a year, I don't mind giving leach 10 to the state GOP because I want to make sure we keep Republicans in the majority."

THE THIRD WAY. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen this week was announced as a Honerary Senate Co-Chair of The Third Way, a self-described "innovative and influential think-tank that creates and advances moderate policy and political ideas."

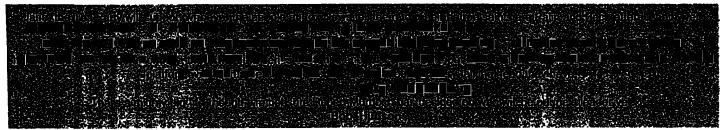
John DiStaso is senior political reporter of the New Hampshire Union Leader and New Hampshire Sunday News.

YOUR COMMENTS

It is they regalitering organizing and fund raising to support politicians while at this same time donying that right to thousand a constitution of the constitution o

Michele Bachmann is a featherweight. Any person worthy to be president of the US would have more important things to say than going after the first lady on such an innocuous subject as her support for breastfeeding. First ladies usually have a platform - Laura Bush promoted reading for example, and now Mrs Obama wants idds to eat healthy. There is nothing offensive about Mrs. Bush or Mrs. Obamas "platforms", so why not talk about serious subjects all give the first ladies a break?

- Kerry, Londonderry



EDAILY CALLER

PRINT PAGE

Gay Republican mulls presidential bid

By Matthew Boyle - The Daily Caller 2:52 AM 02/16/2011



ADVERTISEMENT

Fred Karger is here, he's queer, and he just might run for president in 2012 as a Republican.

Karger would be the first-ever openly gay presidential candidate in the history of the United States. That's something one would imagine would mustly likely come from the mace socially liberal Democratic Party, but that's not the case here. Karger is proud of his work with President Ronald Reagan's 1980 and 1984 election campaigns – photographs of the Gipper covered the walls of his hotel suite in the Washington, D.C., Marriott Wardings Park last urdehand.

The Marriott Wardman Park was home to the American Conservative Union's 2011 Conservative <u>Political</u> Action Conference (CPAC), an annual gathering of top Republicans and conservatives and a pep rally of sorts for attendees. Karger wasn't invited to speak, and he wasn't even allowed to have a booth to display his materials or his platform. He decided to take the rebellious route to get his message out there to CPAC attendees, though, and booked a hotel suite to throw a party as a platform to spread his fiscally conservative message.

Kurger attracts the libertarian-type students that Rep. Ron Paul, Texas Republican, is known for getting on beard with his message. Several showed up at Karger's Frillay night unofficial CPAC party.

Melba Morris-Page, a student from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attending CPAC with Paul's Campaign for Liberty, told TheDC she likes Karner's wisws.

"I got to meet him about 10 minutes ago, and he's very kind and I like what he has to say," Morris-Page said. "He seems like he's in it to win it, and I hope he gives it a shot."

Karger never got a response from a letter he wrote to American Conservative Union Chairman David Keene asking why he wasn't allowed to have a booth at CPAC, a speaking opportunity or a place in the <u>presidential</u> straw poll.

"I have began actively involved in Republican politics for over three decades, and have worked on nine Republican Presidential campaigns including senior consulting roles for Presidents Reagan, George H.W. Bush and Gerald Ford," Karger wrote to Keene. "Additionally, I have managed decade, state and federal elections."

Karger doesn't have any proof of it, but he suspects the reason why he wasn't allowed an official spot at CPAC is because he's openly gay. For CPAC to allow gay conservative group GOProud in was one thing, but to let an openly gay potential Republican <u>presidential candidate</u> would've been too much, he suspects.

"I would be the first openly gay candidate to over run for president of the United States," Karger told TheDC. "I think it sends a very strong message to younger people. When I started my gay activism just two and a half years ago, because I was in the closet up until that point, and when I came out on the Brop 8 stuff and started hyperthing companies that were denuting money, I said it then, in my very first interview, 'I want to do this so it's easier for young people."

Karger considers himself an "independent Republican," and told TheDC he's more "transpartisan" than bipartisan.

"There's a term called transpartisan — it's stronger than bipartisan," Karger said. "I'm truly in the middle. I was a Hillary Clinton supporter four years ago, a maxed-out donor to her and I supported Gov. John Lynch for re-election, who's a Democrat in New Hampshire, but I also supported Republican Bill Binnie in the Senate race."

. Like Paul, Karger calls for an imprediate and to the wars in Iraq and in Afghanistan. But, Karger doës thinks be military brass should look into better ways to do so.

"We need to modernize our military to fight terrorism," Karger said. "The world is a very different place now and the United States, I don't think, should be imperialistic and going into countries. We need to protect our interests but getting involved in this quagmire in Afghanistan is a terrible move."

Karger is focused on reforming the education system in the United States — he's avidly anti-teachers' unions. He points to California's public chanter soluble, which he says are "finerishing," te-cause they're able to skate around the American Tanches Association and the National Education Association

"We need to make school hours longer each day. America has about 180 days of school each year, the rest of the industrialized world is about 220 and some go a lot higher," Karger said. "In China, they start at 3 years old. If we're going to compete, and we're going to have an economy and hope for our generation and for many to come, we're going to have to compete and we're going to have to completely reform school and, though I'll be getting into more specifics on that later, I believe the unions are a huge problem."

Karger is realistic atom this changes, saying the if he enters the most he will do so to be a voice of "moderation."

"I'm probably met going to win," he said. "I'm in this for a variety of teasons. I want to be a voice of moderation in the Republican Party and there really is none in this so far."



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Fred Karger: The Gay-Rights Bogeyman of the GOP Presidential Race

By Chris Good

The Republican presidential field has gained a new entrant, though he's not your typical White House aspirant, and the White House may not be a realistic destination for him.

Fred Karger, a retired GOP strategist from California, has formed an exploratory committee in his, home state and will soon begin raising money for a 2012 presidential bid.

If you've never heard of Karger, you're not alone. His campaign slogan is "Fred Who?" and, while his out-of-the-blue presidential ambitions may sound like the delusions of a political loon, Karger appears to know what he's doing. And what he's doing is something different from what other Republican presidential hopefuls, the big names especially, are working on.

Frad Kanger is no lumatic (at least as far as I can tell), but an experienced political stantagion who has done can paign work for both Ronald Rengan and George H.W. Bush, helping to run the Willie Horton victims campaign to discredit Michael Dukakis in 1988. He is also gay, though he kept that under wraps through decades of work in Republican political circles, until around the year 2000.

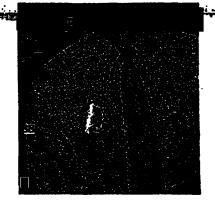
Here is his goal: to gain grassroots momentum in New Hampshire and Iowa, eventually reaching the stage of the nationally televised delightes put on by local newspapers and TV stations in those two states—the debates that see about a dozen candidates on stage, the ultra-long-shots along with the frontrunners. Once there, he plans to do one thing: make a ruckus about gay rights and why the Republican Party doesn't officially support them.

To do this, Karger figures he'll need smeawhere in the naighborhood of \$5 to \$6 million, a sum he hopes to raise from a network of gay-rights supporters he's built up over the past few years. Right now, he has



structured his political operation as a gol(c)4, meaning he has to reposit to the IRS but not the Rederal Election Commission; he has two people working for him, "helping out," as he puts it, and he pays their expenses.

Their mission: determine the criteria for getting into those debates and find out how Karger can meet them. To that end, Karger has been traveling to Iowa and New Hampsinire, meeting with editorial boards. He's been to 13 states plus the District of Columbia, holding town-halls and mani-and-great events in Mexican restaurance and gay buts. His first



tack place at Margaritas, a Maxican restaurant in Kasso, New Hampshire; according to Karger, 50 people showed up.

"I beat John McCain's 19 at his first town-hall meeting" before the 2008 campaign, Karger points out.

Most recently, Karger led a charge against the Mormon Church for its involvement in the Prop. 8 anti-gay-marriage initiative in California in 2008, unearthing its funding of the Prop. 8 campaign and campaigning to expose that funding and the Mormon Church's approach to homosexuality.

"There's two reasons I can do this," Kanger told me last menth when he stopped by the Atlantic's offices on a trip to DC. "One is I'm openly gay and that's never happened before—never before has an openly gay candidate run for president."

The other, as he put it: "Exposing Mormons." Should Karger's run gain attention in Iowa and New Hampshire, his prime target for ruckus-making will be Mitt Romney, who, he says, follows a severe anti-gay ethos as an "obedient" Mormon.

If Kargar makes it on stage in those debates, he'll join a line of single-issue candidates that have had some degree of manass over the years. In 1996, Alan Keyes ran as a Republican to push abortion to the fore; in 2004, Dennis Kucinich ran as an anti-war Democrat; in 2008, it was Republican Congressman Tom Tancredo and his hard line on immigration. Each made their own waves. Tancredo, most recently, made it on-stage for early debates but dropped out in late December 2007, having spent a total of \$5.8 million.

Karger's expedition, should be follow through with it, would come as paradigms on gay rights seem to be shifting in the Republican Party. Social conservatives no longer constitute the locus of power in the national Republican landscape; fiscal conservatism and small-government near-libertarianism have arisen as the impulses of the GOP base that Republican politicians feel most compelled to satisfy.

Laura Bush's receptance of gay marriago was taken by some as a sign that perhaps Precident George W. Bush, privately, might succept it too. It's a sematimes open, numerimes classical support for gay rights within Republican ranks that Karger will seek to mobilize in late 2011 and early 2012.

For now, the retired consultant is in talks with a fundraiser and, having formed the exploratory

candidacy, he will have to begin to raise money toward the presidential sear. Once he announces his candidacy, he will have to begin telling the Federal Election Commission just how much he's raising, and we'll see how successfully he can activate gay-rights supporters and tap their wallets toward his \$5 to \$6 million goal.

And to that end, Karger appears to be utilizing his considerable political experience. If we see him on stage in late 2011, it will be a testament not just to the sentiments of Republican voters on gay rights, but to Karger's ability to maneuver his way into the public eye.

This article available online at:

http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2010/08/fred-karger-the-gay-rights-bogeyman-of-the-gop-presidential-race/61279/

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Republicans Scent Blood In White House Race

Recommend 1

Comments (31)

12:51am UK, Montilly February 21, 2011

Robert Nisbet, US correspondent

Barack Obama will face the electorate in over 20 months, but already Republicans are lining up to take him on.

The process of selecting a party candidate is lengthy and costly, and begins in February next year with the lowa caucuses. Party members across the states will then be able to weigh in through a series of primaries, with the candidate officially crowned at the convention in August.

It is unlikely any Decearat would challenge President Oleana, so the attention is now focused on who the Republicans will pick to challenge him.

So far none has officially thrown his or her hat into the ring, but observers say the field of likely contenders is the largest for years.





Former Alaska governor Sarah Palin is a possible candidate and Tea Party favourite

Former and current state governors dominate the list, with Tea Party favourite Sarah Palin, evangelicals Mike Huckabee and Tim Pawlenty, former Presidential hopeful Mitt Romney, Mississippi's colourful Haley Barbour and Indiana's Mitch Daniels all it the mix.

Add to that Governor Chris Christie from New Jersey, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, New York's ex-Mayor Rudy Giuliani, openly gay political strategist Fred Karger and a smattering of lawmakers who may decide to run.

Independents, like the libertarian Congressman Ron Paul, could also try to entice wavering voters.

the success of the small-government, low-tax Tea Party movement.

This is not going to be an election about personalities. What you saw in the midterm elections was an interesting dynamic; it was more of an idea and concept that persuaded people to vote for Republican candidates.

Pottster and strategist, David Winston

"This is not going to be an election about personalities. What you saw in the midterm elections was an interesting dynamic: it was more of an idea and concept that personaled pumple to note for Reputilizan conditiones," politics and similar flavid.

Winden taid Sig News.

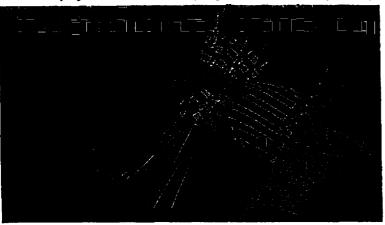
"It's what you're going to so when you are elected that counts."

Buil that ductor't mean him propositions are althought is election out.

Dormals Trange is considering a bid. He talk conservative activists last weak he would restore America's reputation if elected to the White House.

It is likely that President Obama's record on job creation and the economy which will dominate the campaign.

With unemployment still stubbornly high and the recovery patchy, his opponents know there is an opportunity.



Support at the lowa Caucuses is seen as key to a Presidency candidates success

But he remains personally popular, with a battle-hardened team running his re-election campaign.

Fox News analyst Juan Williams told Sky News: "I think the early betting right now is that Obama will get a second term, but remember the passion in American politics is on the right.

"It is coming from people like the Tea Party. Their opposition to healthcare reform, their alarm over big teidget deficits: they are the ones who are sending the dollars to the candidates.

"This is going to be one hell of an election."



Your Comments

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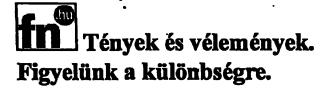
Posted by: peter edwards on February 21, 2011 11:31 PM

Who the hell cares!!. The rest of the world is moving on and America is on a downward slope anyway. The world no longer revolves around the USA, only Americans think it does. Power and inflence now lie elsewhere.

Recommend (0)

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2011. február 23., szerda, Alfréd Bejelentkezés Regisztráció Hírlevél

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Homoszexuális elnökjelölt indul Amerikában



Fred Karger lehet az első, homoszexualitását nyíltan vállaló elnökjelölt az Egyesült Államokban. A politikus

Iowában indulna "független republikánusként."

FN_hu

2010. november 26. 13:49

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Well-day

Ajänlótt weboldalak

Még alig múltak el a félidős választások, az lowa-i szavazók már a 2012-es elnökválasztási kampány hangalatába lofstollastak belli. Osútőstökön ugyankí jagjalent az első tévéreikiám egy legndő 2012-es jelölttől.

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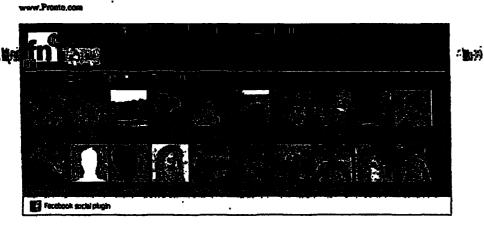
Fred Karger homoszexualitását nyíltan vállaló republikánus, aki elmondása szerint komolyan készül a 2012-es megmérettetésre. Ha valóban elindul, azzal ő lesz az első vállaltan homoszexuális férfi az Egyesült Államok történetében, aki a két legfontosabb párt egyikének színeiben elnökjelöltként indul. Elemzők szerint korai kampányának oka, hogy neve relatív ismeretlenül cseng a választópolgárok számára, ezért szüksége van a bemutatkozásra. Karger tervei szerint 5 millió dollárt gyűjt össze az elnökválasztási kampányra.

Karger feltilhése a porendon kihívás elé állíthut olyan várhaté jelölteket, mint a melugi ázasságot effentifó volt kormányzó, Mike Huchabee és Mitt Remney, valamint a suintin konzarvatív nézeteltől ismert litrali Palin.



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Potential 2012 GOP candidates speak out on what should be done to those responsible for Wikileaks

By Alexis Levinson - The Daily Caller 3:45 AM 12/03/2010



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Though <u>President Obama</u> has yet to weigh in personally on what should be done to those responsible for the Wikileaks releases, some of his potential 2012 Republican opponents have spoken out on the issue.

Framer Agicansas Generous Miles hinds abec has gone on the respect gaying that whoever leaked the documents to Wikileaks committed treason and ought to be executed.

Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich echoed Huckabee in an interview with The Daily Caller, saying that the leaker, allegedly Pfc. Bradley Manning, committed treason and should be punished harshly.

"The person who leaked the documents committed treason," he said in an e-mail. "He took actions to undermine the United States in the middle of a global war."

Gingrith went on to say that Wikilesiks founder Julian Assange should be treated like an enemy seminatent.

"The foreigner is an enemy combatant who is actively taking steps which will get Americans and American allies killed and should be treated as an enemy annahetant," Gingrich wrate, enhoing a similar stutement in eards on Fax News Tuesday where he said that Assange "should be in jail for the rest of his life."

Rick Santorum, former Pennsylvania senaton and another potential 2012 GOP presidential candidate, took it a step further, calling Assange a "terrorist" on Tuesday during a speech to a rotary club in New Hampshire.

Former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin has taken a different tack by blaming President Obama for the diplomatic "fiasco" in a note posted on Facebook.

"What steps were taken to stop Wikileaks director Julian Assange from distributing this highly sensitive classified material...?" she asked.
"Why was he not pursued with the same ungency are pursue of Queda and Tulibra leaders?"

Herman Cain, potential 2012 GOP presidential candidate and the former CEO of Godfather's Pizza, blamed all parties involved, saying, "it never should have happened."

"The whole leak...compromises the national security of the United States of America, so I think that it is a punishable offense," he told TheDC in a phone interview. "You don't compromise the national security of this country in the name of nothing — journalism, freedom of speech, biah blah. Hone of that slides with me."

Fred Karger, a <u>Republican</u> political operative and gay rights activist who has put up the first <u>presidential campaign ads in lowa</u>, called for the parson who leaked the meterial to go holess a suiting tribunal, saying that the look should acceive whatever passishment the tribunal decided appropriate.

As for Assange, Karger drew a more nuanced case. "This also is a freedom of speech issue," he told TheDC in an e-mail, "is Assange just an editor-in-chief that publishes these documents, or did he pay for the secrets, aide and abet or instruct Manning or any of his others sources to take illegal actions to get these documents? If so, he should also be prosecuted by a military tribunal."



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Students in the Dartmouth College campus are rallying against a bill in Concord aimed at limiting their voting rights.

House Bill 178 will place restrictions on students' stillity to cust a ballot in the cities misd towns values that so in school, students mil.

Some believe the hill is an effort to rein in the college vote, which traditionally leans leftward, but college Democrats, Republicans and Libertarians at Dartmouth have

criticized the bill as a misguided effort.

"I live here, and the suggestion that I somebow don't have a my in the policies of this town or this state, I'm going to go down to Commed to testify on this. Obviously, I care about what happens in this state," said Chellea Stewart, acting vice president of the Dartmouth College Democsats.

Stewart said the bill will force New Hampshire college students to vote in their hometowns.

They know we vote, but I flink they assume we go and wote down the ticket, all for the same party, which is not all due care," Stewart said.

Democrats are particularly irked by this Republican-sponsored bill, but at

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"If we basically take this, we're taking it away from everyone that completely cares and might even feel like living here in the future," said Joshua Schiefelbein, president of the Dartmouth College Libertarians.

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GOP Presidential Hopefuls Want New GOP Majority to Focus on Economy

Kevin Derby

Posted: January 6, 2011 3:55 AM

As the Republicans took over the U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday, prominent politicians looking to be the GOP's standard bearer in 2012 weighed in on what the new majority should focus on — and not surprisingly, pointed toward the nation's sluggish economy.

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who appears ready to launch a second bid at the Republican presidential nomination, stressed Wednesday that the new Republican majority in the U.S. House needs to focus on the economy.

"We face many challenges, but in me area is leadership more important than in addressing the economy and the axes for new johs," noted Romney. "Let's face it: Washington has become a job-killing beast. It is slowly but surely smothering the very pioneering, entrepreneurial spirit that made America the freest, strongest nation on earth. Fortunately, we took the first step in slaying that job-killing beast by electing a Republican majority to the United States House of Representatives last November. But reclaiming majority control of the House is just the first step. We have a lot of work to do to change Washington and get our economy back on track."

Romney, who put years in at a management consultant firm before running for office, was not the only potential 2012 Republican hopeful calling for the new majority to make putting Americans back to work their top priority.

"The No. 1 focus of House Republicans must be developing and implementing the right policies that will help entrepreneurs and small businesses areate jobs and paychecks," wrote former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich on Wednesday in an e-mail sent out to supporters. "A booming economy will help balance the budget. It is also the best social policy we can have for American families. As President Ronald Reagan used to remind us, the best social program is a job because it allows the individual to take care of their family with dignity and independence. Many other activities and programs may make us feel good, but none are as important as creating the right policies for job creation."

Other putential Republican candidates have called for the new Republican majority in the House to take aim at a related matter — federal spending.

"This is a crucial time in American politics, as we took to a newly elected Congress in 2011 to stop the insanity of federal spending," said former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson last week "Republicans in Congress must be vigilant as never before when it comes to the nation's pocketbook — we need to get our spending under control. From putting an end to the exorbitant costs of the war in Afghanistan, to ensuring that the Bush tax cuts become permanent for all Americans, now is the time to make the

difficult financial decisions to put our econtry back on track. I truly believe that our national debt is the currently our greatest threat to national security."

U.S. Rep. Ron Paul of Texas noted there are many issues to focus on.

"The year 2011 brings in a host of opportunities and challenges to America," Paul noted on Tuesday.
"Will was accelerate toward economic insolverray by continuing the poincies that have created titis erisis, or will a near Congress elected on the energy of the ten party sovernout find the courage to change charse?"

Paul, who ran for president in 1988 and 2008 and is mulling over making another run in 2012, stressed the importance of his new assignment heading up the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy.

"With the new Republican majority in the House, I will have the opportunity as a subcommittee chairman to take a careful look at our domestic monetary policy," continued Paul. "I am excited by the prospect of real oversight of the Federal Reserve, but I also hope to focus on the important ways in which our fereign policy and indentary policy are related. Just last vereix, the Financial Times reported that the limited countight of the Federal Reserve elleved by the pristage of a watered-down version of my estit of the Federal Reserve elleved by the pristage of a watered-down version of my estit of the Federal Reserve bailout program, the Term Auction Facility, went to foreign banks! This is but one example of the real cost to Americans of maintaining its empire overseas, and it cries out for more transparency and oversight.

"This is why it is key for us to understand that our foreign policy and current economic crisis go hand in hand," added Paul. "Some have promised to lead us back to fiscal responsibility while asserting that any reduction in our foreign and military spending is off the table. They would like us to believe that we should not only continue spending as much on the military as the sest of the world construct, but they astually call for an even more approxima U.S. policy stread."

Paul added that Congress needs to change the cearch policies used by the Transportation Security Administration and regeal the PATRIOT Act.

Fred Karger, a veteran political consultant who has helped Republican candidates for more than three decades, is considering running for his party's numination. Speaking to Sunshine State Rews on Wednesday, Karger said that he was in a meeting when John Boehner received the gavel from Nancy Pelosi.

"All eyes were en the TV whom the gavol was passed," said Kerger. "It was a dramatio mornent."

Karger said he hoped the harmony that was shown when the Republicans took over the House from the Democrats would continue.

"I hope that civility will continue," said Karger. "That's what the American people are craving right now."

Karger added that Congress needed to focus on economic issues.

"The economy and jobs first," he said. "We need to create jobs in this country and then we can do so magy things."

Other possible candidates for nomination include former Alaska Gov. Serah Palin, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, Gov. Tim Pawlenty and U.S. Rep. Michelle Bachmann of Minnesota, Gov. Mitch Daniels and U.S. Rep. Mike Pence of Indiana, former Gov. George Pataki of New York, Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi, U.S. Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, former U.N.

Reach Kevin Derby at kderby@sunshinestatenews.com or at (850) 727-0859.

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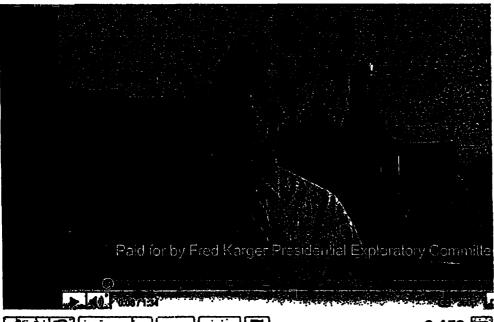
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@PizzaPizza33 If nothing else were to come of this, at least he demands clarity from the other GOP potentials running, where they stand socially. And selfishly for me, prove to the gay haters of America that we gays are just like everyone else. fatcattin 2 months ago

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Whither the Reasonable Republican?

By Jonathan Pedde, Contributing Columnist

Published on Monday, October 25, 2010

Reading the op-ed pages of America's left-of-center newspapers, it would seem that the Republican Party is being overnous by angry, hemophobic, anti-immigrant crackpoin. For contrists like me with believe in the importants of having two same national parties, this would be a terribly depressing prospect. But, just when one could be forgiven for thinking that all hope is lost, Fred Karger comes to the rescue.

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Who is Fred Karger? That's exactly what I asked when I first heard of him. He is a former political consultant who is considering running for president as an independent Republican in 2012. He got his start in politics in 1964 working for Nelson Rockefeller. Most recently, Karger founded the watchdog group Californians Against Hate and was active in the campaign to stop California's Proposition 8, which outlawed gay marriage. If he decides to run in the 2012 Republican primaries, he will be the first openly gay person to run for president.

While there are many adjectives that could describe Karger's outlook on life, angry is not one of them. Karger spoke at Dartmouth on Oct. 14. Including myself, about 40 people attended. During his speech, Karger emphasized how he wants to bring a sense of optimism back to America. He particularly admires Ronald Reagan's ability to remain optimistic, even during the depths of the nasty recession of the early 1980s. For pragmatists like myself who are looking for more than mere sentimentality in a politician, there is also a very important practical side to Karger's optimism: When the economy is deeply depressed and interest rates are stuck at zero, consumer and business expectations of future prosperity (or lack thereof) can become self-fulfilling. Perhaps a president who irrationally maintains a sense of optimism in the worst of times wouldn't be such a bad thing right now.

More importantly, I think that Karger may actually be a politician who will be able to reach across the increasingly polarized partisan divide. For starters, unlike some of our current elected officials who sold themselves as "post-partisan" candidates, Karger is willing to criticize members of his own party. In fact, during his speech at Dartmouth, Karger had more bail things to say about Mike Huckabee alone than all of the Democrats combined. I agree with some of Karger's criticisms of Huckabee (especially on Huckabee's comparison of homosexuality to drug abuse and polygamy) and disagree with others (that we need to be tougher on crime than Huckabee was a governor). But the fact that Karger is actually willing to look at his own party with just as critical an eye as he does for his opponents is an important quality nonetheless.

Into border is actually willing to banak with his party's outhoutoxins when his conscience dictates. Not only does he support immediate repeal of Don't Aak, Don't Tall as well as the legalization of gay marriage, he also supports immigration reform. He wants a path to citizanship for immigrants already living in the country as well as improved border security to discourage future law-breaking. When asked how he would go about "improving" border security, Karger replied that he wasn't sure, but had an open mind on the issue. As the grandson of Granau refugees, I especially appraciate Karger's statement that immigrants are not hore for a hand-out, but for the opportunity to succeed by working hard. Likewise, Karger is excited about wind and solar energy as well as energy conservation. To him, the possibilities seem obvious: "Why do people wear sweaters in their air-conditioned homes

during the summer?" he queried diving the speech.

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Actually, Karger's ability to reach across the partisan divide isn't just hypothetical. During the 2008 California elections, Karger and Californians Against Hate sided with organized labor — not exactly the kind of organizations with whom you would expect a Republican to be working — in the campaign against Proposition 8.

Karger is exactly the kind of Republican that I would like to see succeed: Optimistic, willing to engage in serious self-examination and able to work for the good of the country even if that means working with the Democrats. It is very telling that, during the 2008 presidential elections, he supported Hillary Clinton, but no Republican candidates. He knows that he "probably wan't win" the primaries, but a Rockefeller Republican like Karger is exactly what the country needs right now.

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Fred Karger

Founder, Rights Equal Rights

Posted: November 28, 2010 06:48 PM

An Apology Now, Mike Huckabee?

November 29th is a tragic anniversary in American history. It was exactly one year ago today that four police officers in Lakewood, Washington were murdered in cold blood while they are at a local coffee shop.

The killer, Maurice Clemmons should have been locked up for 108 years. Instead, then Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee commuted his sentence after Clemmons served only 11 years in prison.

It seems Huckabee, a former Baptist Preacher, is a very forgiving man. He did this with at least 1,032 other prisoners. Apparently if you accepted Christ in your life, it was like a get out of jail free card in Arkansas when Huckabee was Governor.

I reread Huckebee's statement released the day after the slayings. I thought I might see an ownee of remorse, but there was none. This was the best he could come up with in an interview two days after the slayings with <u>Bill O'Reilly on.Fox News</u>, "I'm responsible for that, and it's not something I'm happy about at this particular moment."

Four family's lives were forever tragically changed, when they lost their husband, mother, father, brother, silter, son and daughter.

The Lakewood pelipe department lost four of its family when <u>Officers Mark Renninger</u>. <u>Tina Griswold</u>. <u>Gregory Richards</u>, and <u>Ronnie Owens</u> were gunned down. The best that Governor Huckabee could come up with was that he was "not happy about it."

I wrote on this subject back in April also in the <u>Huffington Post</u>.

Governor Huckabee, as you consider running for President of the United States, I would hope that you would take this opportunity one year after these brutal murders to apologize to all the victims of this tragedy.

in the littless a man-of-elroug-character-to take responsibility for his actions.

5,